Criteria for Pollinator Friendly Garden Certification

Food source (3)

- Berries/fruit
- Trees/shrubs
- Plant natives
- Milkweed for monarchs
- Plant heirloom varieties over modern hybrids
- Clump plantings (in 3's and excluding trees)
- Diversity; 3 scents, colors flower shape and size
- Host plants for butterfly and moths (for larval development)
- Nectar source in each bloom season (spring, summer, fall)
- 1 wildlife feeder (see conservation practices below…)
  - bird feeder/suet feeder
  - thistle feeder to attract goldfinches
  - fruit feeder to attract orioles
  - nectar feeder to attract hummingbirds
  - rotting fruit during butterfly migration

Water source (2)

- Water garden/Pond
- Stream/River
- Backyard marsh
- Hanging drip bottle
- Butterfly puddling area
- Birdbath or shallow water source
  - Conservation measures
- Mulching
- Timers and rain sensors
- Responsible drip system
- Maintain lawn mowing at height of 3" for fescue lawn
- Xeriscape (plants which once established are drought tolerant)

Shelter/Cover (2)

- Basking site for butterflies
- 3 canopy layers (flowers/shrubs/trees)
- Nesting sites for bees (ground bees need sandy open area)
- Overwintering sites (leave garden clean up until late spring)
- Natural shelter
  - Dead wood
  - Rock pile or wall
  - Brush pile (when managed)
  - Spaces of bare ground

- Thicket
- Constructed shelter
  - Bat house
  - Bee boxes or nesting logs
  - Insect habitat
  - Avian nesting box/bird house

Conservation Practices (8)

- Removal of invasive pest plants
- Compost yard and food waste
- Implement a rain garden
- Use drip or soaker hose instead of overhead sprinkler
- Use a rain barrel or other means of capturing/utilizing rainwater to irrigate plants (do not sue rain garden water on vegetable gardens!)
- Control pests naturally by encouraging beneficial insects
- Direct downspouts and gutters to rain gardens or drain into the lawn, plant beds or containment areas (use non-corrugated drain tiles)
- Water plants no more than once a week if necessary
- Maintain layer of natural mulch over tree roots, shrubs, and plant beds
- Replace exotic or problem-prone plants with low maintenance native species
- Xeriscape (land technique which reduces requirements for water by using native plants and shrubs or other drought tolerant plants
- Plant groundcover or use mulch on thinly vegetated areas to decrease erosion
- Reduce or eliminate lawn areas and plants for pollinators
- Sweep or blow grass clippings, fertilizer, and soil from driveway onto lawn
- Reduce bird-window collisions by breaking up external reflections with stickers
- Eliminate or reduce chemical fertilizers and use natural soil amendments such as compost or well-aged manure (not on lawns, except when indicated by soil test)
- Avoid acquiring invasive ornamental plants
- Permeable hardscape features
- Remove trash from street gutters
- Mulching (natural, no dyes)