Pollinator Friendly Garden
Application

Contact Information

Name_____
Address_____
City_____ State_____ Zip_____ County_____
Email_____ Phone_____

Garden Description

Institution Check what **best** describes your garden

What is you geographic location? ___Urban (in town) ___Suburban ___Rural
How large is your garden space? ___less than ¼ acre ___¼ - 1 acre ___1-5 acres ___5-10 acres ___10+ acres
What type of residence is it? ___House ___Townhouse ___Apartment ___Condominium ___Farm (Home site)
___School ___Business ___Assisted Living ___Community garden

For more information about the best pollinator practices for farmland, contact us at
info@lowershorelandtrust.org or visit our website **www.lowershorelandstrust.org**

Garden Requirements

1. **Food Source**
   Pollinators need a variety of food sources to sustain them as they lose much of their energy when traveling far distances. How do you provide food for pollinators? Check all that apply **(Must have at least 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 feeders
   - ___thistle feeders to attract goldfinches
   - ___fruit feeders to attract orioles
   - ___nectar feeders to attract hummingbirds
   - ___rotting fruit during butterfly migration

2. **Water Source**
   Water is the basic necessity for all living things. How do you provide water for pollinators? Check all that apply. **(Must have at least 1 source and 1 conservation measure)**

   Sources
   ___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)

   Manage water source to reduce standing water and avoid mosquitoes!

3. **Shelter/Cover**
   As habitat diminishes, pollinators are in need of safe refuge from weather, predators and human activity. How do you provide shelter for pollinators? Check all that apply. **(Must have at least 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

Weigh pros and cons for each to determine what's best for your garden!

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4. <u>Conservation Practices</u>

You've established a friendly pollinator garden! Now you need to safeguard the pollinator habitat by implementing sustainable practices that improve the health of the environment in addition to counteracting threats to pollinator's survival. Check all that apply. **(Must meet at least 8)**

___Removal of invasive pest plants
___Compost yard and food waste*
___Implement a rain garden
___Permeable hardscape features
___Remove trash from street gutters
___Mulching (natural, no dyes!)
___Use drip or soaker hoses, instead of overhead sprinkler
___Use a rain barrel or other means of capturing/ utilizing rainwater to irrigate plants (**do not use** rain barrels to water 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 a layer of natural mulch over tree roots, shrubs, and plant beds
___Replace exotic or problem-prone plants with low maintenance native species
___Xeriscape (A landscape 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 plant 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
___Reduce outdoor artificial light (down-pointed lights)
___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 testing!)
___I avoid acquiring invasive ornamental plants (invasive plant list for MD)
___Other (please specify): _____

Integrated pest management (IMP) is an environmentally friendly approach to pest control that involves using a combination of control methods that focus on the long-term prevention of pests or their damage. Preventive pesticide application is limited, though used only when all else fails, because the risk of pesticide exposure may outweigh the benefits of control, especially when non-chemical methods provide the same results.

___I don't use pesticides (or herbicides, insecticides and fungicides)
___I occasionally use pesticides (herbicides, insecticides and fungicides) but always do the following: **(all are required for certification)**
- __Clearly identify the pests before taking action and which pesticide is needed
- __Spray when bees are less active (early in the morning or late in the evening)
- __Spot spray and target only the problem spots

Avoid chemical and organic herbicides, insecticides or fungicides where possible and if necessary, look for the **bee symbol**. Pesticides with this icon are prohibited to use when bees are present and have special instructions for avoiding bees when spraying.

*Note: Symbol does not appear on every insecticide that affects bees, so read labels carefully!

Provide Photos

Please include pictures of your pollinator friendly garden with your application. Provide at least 3 photos that show an overview of your garden, and the 4 criteria (food, water, shelter and conservation). We encourage photos to be sent via email together with your application, however, if you choose to send prints, be sure to label your photos with your last name.

We are sure we'll be receiving some beautiful photos and would appreciate your permission to share them with the community. By providing your signature and date below, you are permitting Lower Shore Land Trust to use and distribute your photos to the public for any purpose, without any means of compensation (we will give credit to all photographers when using photos). If you do not want Lower Shore Land Trust to share your photos, do not sign below.

Name_____ Date _____

Submit Application

Review your application to make sure you've included all of your new pollinator friendly practices!

E-MAIL: To send in your application via e-mail, please send a PDF version and attach your 3 photos in the message. Please put "Pollinator Garden Certification" in the subject line and send to:
info@lowershorelandtrust.org

MAIL: To send in your application via mail, please be sure to include your 3 photos and send all documents to:
Lower Shore Land Trust
100 River Street
Snow Hill, MD 21863

Pollinator Protection fee

Lower Shore Land Trust is requesting a $25.00 application fee to certify your garden. With this contribution you will have access to our resources and support as needed, and you'll be provided with a plaque and certificate of recognition upon completion. Please make checks payable to: **Lower Shore Land Trust**

I certify that all the information I provided is true, and that I've done my best to turn my garden into a pollinator friendly environment! I will strive to use environmentally sound methods to encourage pollinator activity in my garden and will encourage others to implement safe and sustainable practices to promote a healthier community and ecosystem.

Name _____ Date_____

Please allow a 2-week review period to process your documents. Please call 443-234-5587 for any questions

Safeguard with Stewardship

Now that you're an experienced pollinator gardener, share your experience and motivate others in the community to implement their own pollinator friendly garden! Here are some ideas on how to spread the word about the benefits of planting for pollinators to get you thinking of other ways to communicate this message!

- Allow garden to be showcased in a tour
- Participate in a citizen science project
- Volunteer for the certification program
- Encourage neighbors to get involved!
- Get involved with the Master Gardener and Master Naturalist Programs!