

Let's **Plan!**

**Wildflower &
Native Plants**

**PLANNER &
ACTIVITY BOOK**



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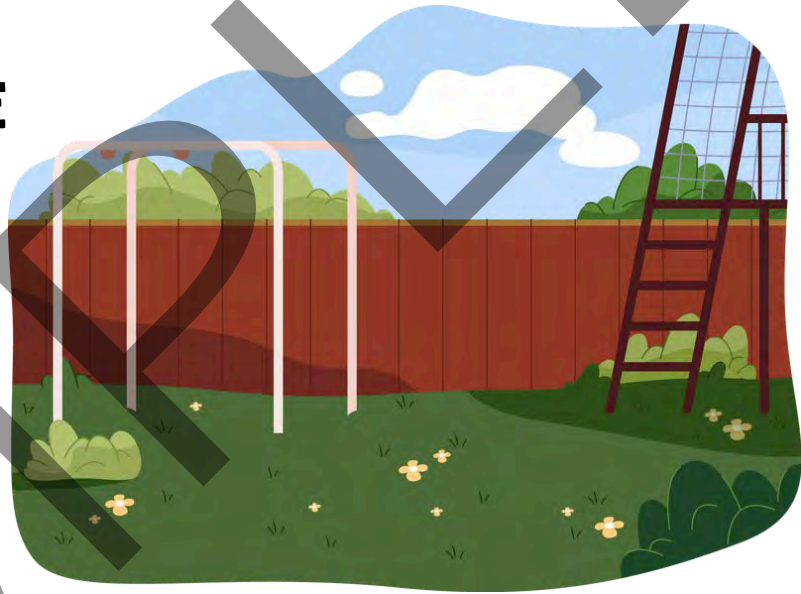
PLAN YOUR GARDEN

When planning your wildflower or pollinator garden, think about how plants, sunlight, and space all work together. A little planning helps your garden grow healthy and stay full of life all year long.

1. START WITH YOUR SPACE

Decide how big your garden will be. Even a few pots or a small corner can make a big difference.

Sketch your space on paper, marking where the sun, shade, and open soil are. Use your sun map to guide where you'll plant.



2. CLEAR THE WAY

Before planting, remove the grass and weeds so your wildflowers don't have to fight for space.





SUN MAP YOUR GARDEN

A sun map helps you see where sunlight and shade fall during the day. It shows which parts of your garden are sunny enough for wildflowers.

YOU'LL NEED:

- A piece of paper or garden plan
- A pencil and colored markers
- A clock or timer
- A safe outdoor space to observe

STEPS:

1. Draw your garden area. Include big landmarks like trees, fences, or the house.
2. Check every 2-3 hours (morning, midday, afternoon). Each time, color or mark where sunlight reaches.
3. Use different colors for full sun, partial sun, and shade.
4. When the day ends, review your map. Which areas had the most sun? Which stayed shaded?

Label each section:

- Full Sun - 6+ hours
- Partial Sun - 4-6 hours
- Mostly Shade - less than 4 hours



Now you'll know exactly where to plant your wildflowers!

CHOOSE PLANTS FOR POLLINATORS

A wildflower garden isn't just about pretty plants—it's about creating a space that feeds and shelters pollinators all year long.

To do that, your garden needs variety: different flower shapes, colors, heights, and bloom times. The more diversity you plant, the more kinds of visitors your garden will welcome.

Pollinators find food by sight and smell, so large groups of flowers are easier for them to spot. Try planting five to seven of the same kind together instead of scattering single plants.

Clusters also make it easier for bees and butterflies to collect nectar without using too much energy.



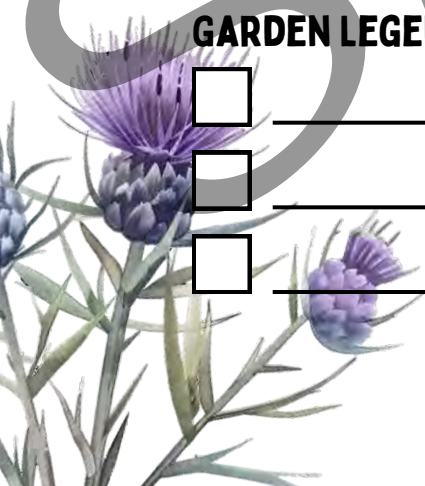


GARDEN GRID PLANNER

Use this garden grid to plan your own garden. You can assign each square a specific space (e.g. 1 square = 1 square foot) and color in where you'll plant specific plants. You can color code your grid by building a legend below.

GARDEN LEGEND

<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____



WHERE BEES LIVE

Not all bees live in hives!

Most native bees make their homes in quiet, hidden places right in the garden. By leaving some natural materials in your yard or outdoor space, you can give them safe spots to rest, nest, and raise their young.

Here are a few simple ways to make your garden a welcoming home for bees and other pollinators:



LEAF LITTER

A layer of fallen leaves may look messy, but it's an important part of nature's home-building. Leaves protect soil, hold water, and give insects a warm place to hide. Many butterflies and moths also rest or lay eggs under leaves during colder months.



SANDY SOIL

Many bees like to dig their nests in the ground. Loose, sandy soil makes it easy for them to tunnel and stay dry.

Leaving a small patch of bare earth—without mulch or plants—gives these ground-nesting bees a place to live.

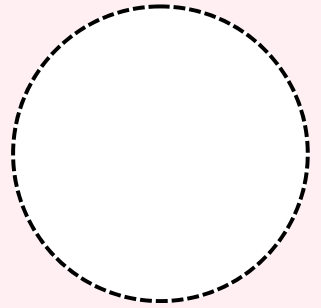
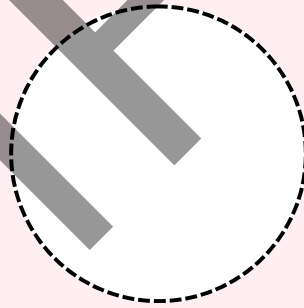
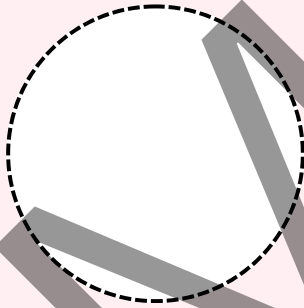
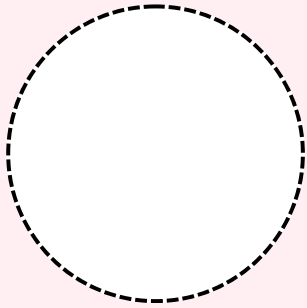
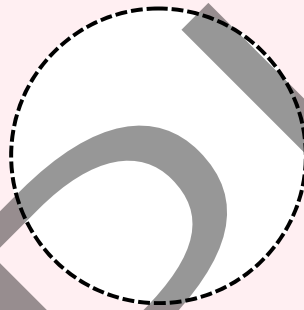
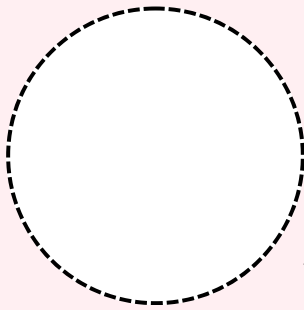
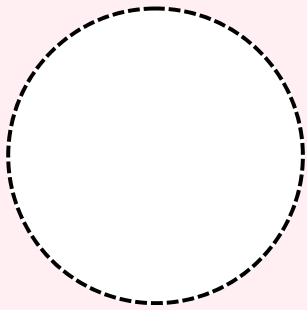


POLLINATOR OR NOT

Cut out the bug images and sort them between pollinators and not pollinators.

POLLINATORS

NOT POLLINATORS



BEE



SPIDER



MOTH



FIREFLY



ANT



BEETLE

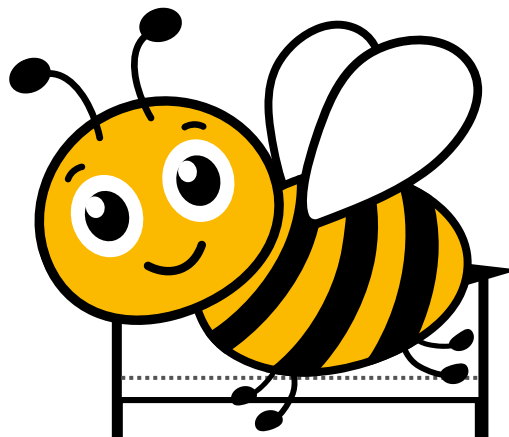


BUTTERFLY



LADYBUG



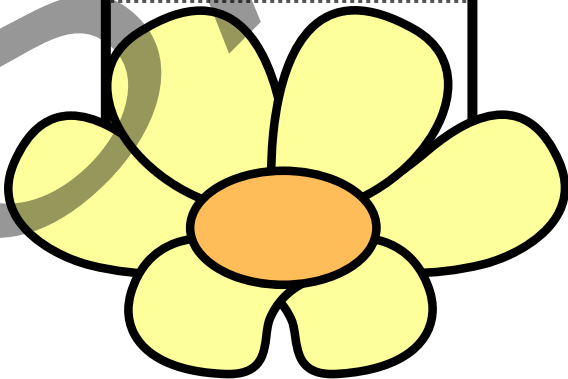


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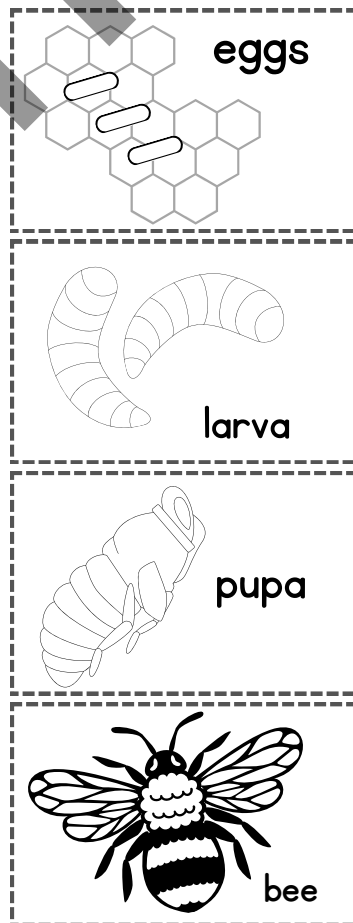
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LIFE CYCLE OF A BEE

Instructions:

1. Color the stages of the bee's life cycle.
2. Cut and paste the pictures in order on the boxes.
3. Cut around the bee template and fold the dotted horizontal lines into pleats.



FLOWER VISITOR LAB

GARDEN VISITOR	DATE	TODAY'S WEATHER	PLANTS BLOOMING TODAY	DID ANYTHING CHANGE?



Wildflower

A flower that grows naturally without being planted.

Native Plant

A plant that naturally grows in a specific region and supports the local ecosystem.

Habitat

A natural home or environment for plants, insects, or animals.

Ecosystem

A community of living things interacting with each other and their environment.

Let's **Plan!**

**25 Easy-to-
Grow Florida**

NATIVE PLANTS



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The background features a white sky with several black birds in flight, scattered across the upper half. Large, stylized, light gray clouds are positioned behind the text. A large, faint watermark of the word 'FLORIDA' is visible, oriented vertically and partially obscured by the text and clouds.

FLORIDA'S EASY TO GROW NATIVE PLANTS





BEACH & TAMPA VERBENA

Glandularia maritima / Glandularia tampensis

Clusters of pink-lavender flowers that spill and spread—drought-tough and pollinator-friendly.



BLOOMS IN

HARDINESS NORTH, CENTRAL, AND SOUTH FLORIDA



Spring



Summer



Fall



Verbena likes...

- Full sun (Tampa Verbena tolerates partial shade)
- Poor, dry soils without over-irrigation; Beach Verbena is highly salt- and drought-tolerant
- Containers, beds, and mass plantings 3–4 ft apart

Verbena attracts...

- Butterflies & moths
- Bees



BLUE-EYED GRASS

Sisyrinchium angustifolium

This isn't really grass—it's a tiny lily with bright purple-blue flowers and sunny yellow centers!



BLOOMS IN

HARDINESS 8A-11



Spring



Summer



Fall

Blue-Eyed Grass likes...

- Full sun to part shade
- Moist, well-drained soil
- Edges of gardens or along paths
- Morning sun is extra-nice for blooms

Blue-Eyed Grass attracts...

- Bumblebees and sweat bees
- Hoverflies
- Birds who eat the seeds



PRAIRIE CONEFLOWER

Ratibida pinnata

A bright yellow wildflower with drooping petals and a tall cone-shaped center—great for adding sunny color in late-season gardens.



BLOOMS IN

HARDINESS NORTH FLORIDA



Summer



Fall

Prairie Coneflower likes...

- Full sun to part shade
- Moist to dry soil
- Clay or sandy loam
- Can handle moderately dry to wet conditions

Prairie Coneflower attracts...

- Numerous pollinators
- Songbirds (for the seeds)



Let's **Plan!**

**Learn All
About Florida**

WILDFLOWERS



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WILDFLOWERS 101



WHAT ARE WILDFLOWERS?

Wildflowers are plants that grow naturally in a place — without people planting them in neat rows like a farm crop. Many wildflowers are native plants, which means they've been growing in that region for a very long time.

Wildflowers can grow in fields, forests, along roadsides, and even in backyards. They come in many colors and shapes, and different wildflowers bloom at different times of the year.

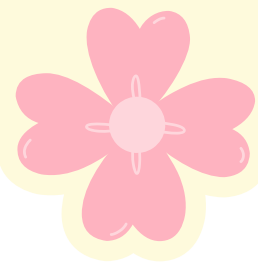
WILDFLOWERS ARE IMPORTANT BECAUSE THEY:

- provide nectar, pollen, seeds, and shelter for wildlife
- help support healthy soil
- can grow well without extra fertilizer

WILDFLOWER VS. GARDEN FLOWER

A garden flower is usually planted and cared for by people. A wildflower can grow on its own in the right place — especially if it's native.

Not every flower you see growing wild is a “good wildflower.” Some plants are non-native and can spread too fast. That's why many gardeners choose native wildflowers for their area.



WILDFLOWER CHECK-IN

What are wildflowers?

Why do wildflowers matter?

What is one simple thing you can do to help wildflowers grow?



SAMPLE

BIRDS

Wildflower patches can be like a busy stop on a wildlife “superhighway.” Birds visit for food, shelter, and a place to rest – and wildflowers help in more than one way.

Wildflowers help birds by providing:

- Seeds that many birds eat, especially in late summer and fall
- Insects that birds hunt (and that baby birds especially need to grow)
- Cover and shelter where birds can hide from predators, rest, and look for food



SONGBIRDS

Many songbirds eat wildflower seeds, but they also rely on insects – especially when they’re feeding chicks. When wildflowers support healthy insect life, they help birds raise their young.

HUMMINGBIRDS

Hummingbirds are famous for drinking nectar, but they also need insects for protein. A wildflower patch can help by offering nectar sources and supporting the tiny insects hummingbirds eat.



WHO EATS WHAT?

Circle what each animal eats.

SONGBIRDS

nectar • insects • seeds



HUMMINGBIRDS

nectar • insects • seeds



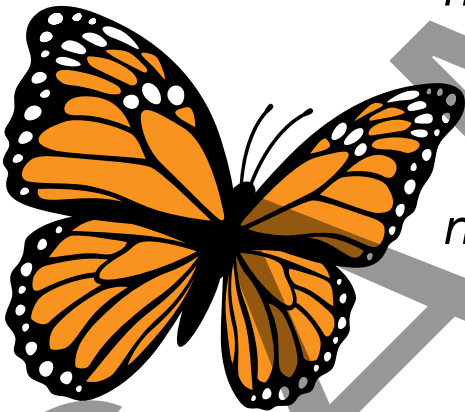
BEEES

nectar • insects • seeds



BUTTERFLIES

nectar • insects • seeds



SMALL MAMMALS

nectar • insects • seeds



AMPHIBIANS

nectar • insects • seeds



CAUSE → EFFECT

When we plant wildflowers, there is more _____ and _____. That helps animals like _____ and _____ find food.

Wildflower roots help hold _____ in place. That means less _____ washes away when it rains.

Wildflowers usually don't need _____. Using less fertilizer can help keep _____ cleaner.

WILDFLOWERS PROTECT SPRINGS

Florida springs are fed by **groundwater** — water that moves through the ground and fills underground spaces.

When rain falls, some of it soaks into the soil and becomes groundwater. What we do on the land can affect that water.

Wildflowers can help protect springs because **they usually don't need fertilizer**.

WHY DOES THAT MATTER?

When people use fertilizer on lawns or gardens, rain can wash some of it away. That fertilizer can run into storm drains, lakes, and rivers — and it can also soak into the ground.

Too much fertilizer in the water can cause problems, like:

- too much algae growing in the water
- less clear, less healthy water for fish and other wildlife

Because wildflower patches often grow without fertilizer, they can help reduce fertilizer runoff. **Less fertilizer used = less fertilizer washing away = healthier spring water.**

MY WILDFLOWER PLAN

Planting wildflowers can start small. Use this page to plan your own wildflower patch – even if it's just a corner!

WHERE WILL MY WILDFLOWERS GO?

A sunny spot I could use is: _____

HOW BIG WILL MY PATCH BE?

- A small corner
- A strip along a fence or wall
- A garden bed
- Other: _____

WHAT WILL MY WILDFLOWERS HELP?

Bees • Butterflies • Birds • Fireflies • My garden • Clean water

WHAT WILL I NOT USE IN MY PATCH?

- Fertilizer
- Bug spray / pesticides
- Too much outdoor lighting at night

WHAT IS ONE SMALL STEP I CAN TAKE FIRST?

My first step will be: _____

