



Best Practices for Pollinator Gardens

- Do not buy plants treated with systemic pesticides, as the nectar and pollen is toxic to pollinators. Do not use any pesticides in the garden.
- Create garden habitats that have an uninterrupted season-long succession of bloom. The Tennessee Valley Chapter of Wild Ones website has several downloadable plant lists with bloom time information.
- Plant 3-5 plants of each species. Good choices include Echinacea, Butterfly Milkweed, Anise Hyssop, Narrowleaf Mountain Mint, Goldenrod and Asters. Although there are butterflies during all seasons, in east Tennessee they tend to be more plentiful in late summer and through the fall, even into November.
- Let the garden over-winter without cutting down the dead stalks or raking leaves out of the beds. Butterflies and moths over-winter in caterpillar or chrysalis form in the plant debris. Queen bumblebees also over-winter in garden debris. Clean up the garden when temperatures reach 55-60 degrees.
- Accept leaf damage on plants, especially butterfly host plants, as these plants help support the next generation of butterflies.

