



Native Plants & Pollinators

Created by the Kankakee County Soil & Water Conservation District

What is pollination?

Pollination is the transfer of pollen from the stamen (male flower part) to the pistil (female flower part). Pollination results in the production of seeds. Without pollination, most flowering plants cannot reproduce.

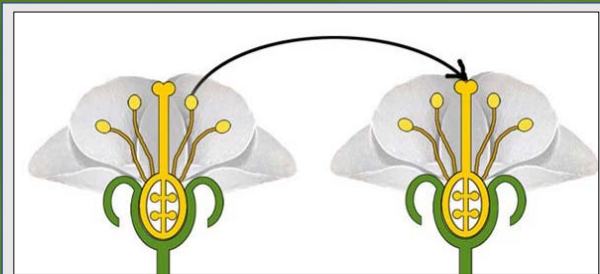


Figure 1. Pollination illustration, retrieved from https://www.proprofs.com/quiz-school/topic_images/p1a684svep19fa19a717161s1pfv03.jpg



Who are the pollinators?

Pollinators transfer pollen from one flower to another.

Butterflies, bees, moths, wasps, flies, beetles, birds, and even bats are important pollinators.

Can you name any native pollinators where you live?



A few of our Midwest pollinators...



What is a native plant?

A **native plant** is a plant that occurs naturally in a particular region, ecosystem, or habitat without human introduction.

They provide food and shelter for insects, birds, and other wildlife – and are very beneficial to our environment.

What are some examples of native plants where you live?



Purple Coneflower

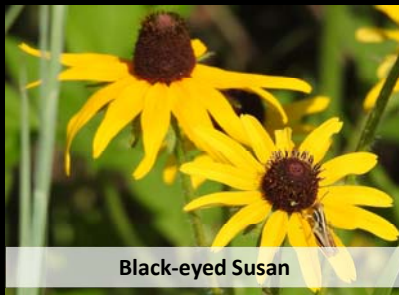


Swamp Milkweed



Wild Bergamot

NATIVE PLANTS



Black-eyed Susan



Blue Vervain



Partridge Pea

What is a non-native plant?

A **non-native plant**, or “exotic plant”, is a plant that has been introduced to an area, and is growing outside of its natural habitat. Many non-native plants provide pollinators with food and shelter, but are not as beneficial as native plants.

What are some examples of non-native plants where you live?



Many daffodils are native to Europe.



Hydrangea are native to Asia & Central America.



Petunias are native to Central America.

NON-NATIVE PLANTS



Orchids grow in tropical forests.



Tulips are native to Asia and Turkey.









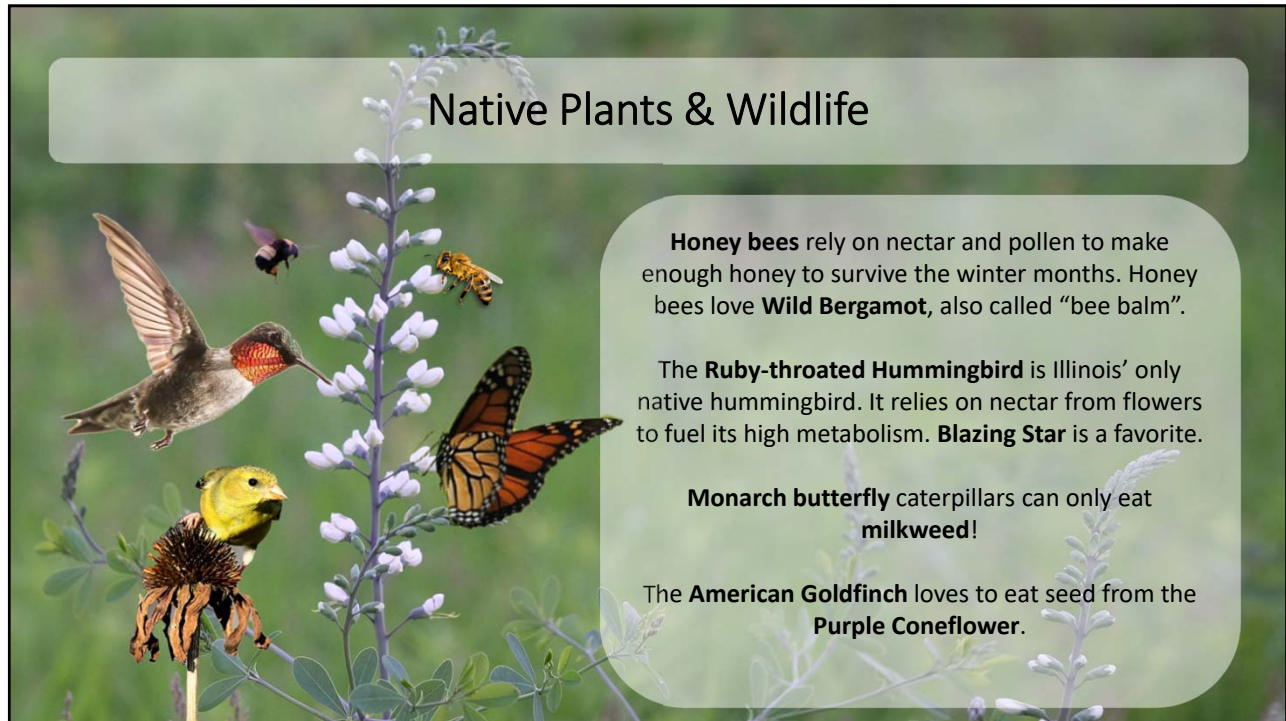
Most roses native to Asia.

What is an invasive plant?

An **invasive plant** is a non-native plant that becomes damaging to the environment. Invasive plants spread quickly and take away valuable resources like sunlight, water, and space from native plants.

What are some examples of invasive plants where you live?

<p>Canada Thistle is a noxious weed.</p> 	<p>Amur Honeysuckle is taking over IL forests.</p> 	<p>Cut-leaved Teasel is native to Europe.</p> 
<h3>INVASIVE PLANTS</h3>		
 <p>Wild Parsnip can cause painful burns and blisters.</p>	 <p>Autumn Olive is an invasive shrub from Asia.</p>	 <p>Garlic Mustard is a very invasive species.</p>



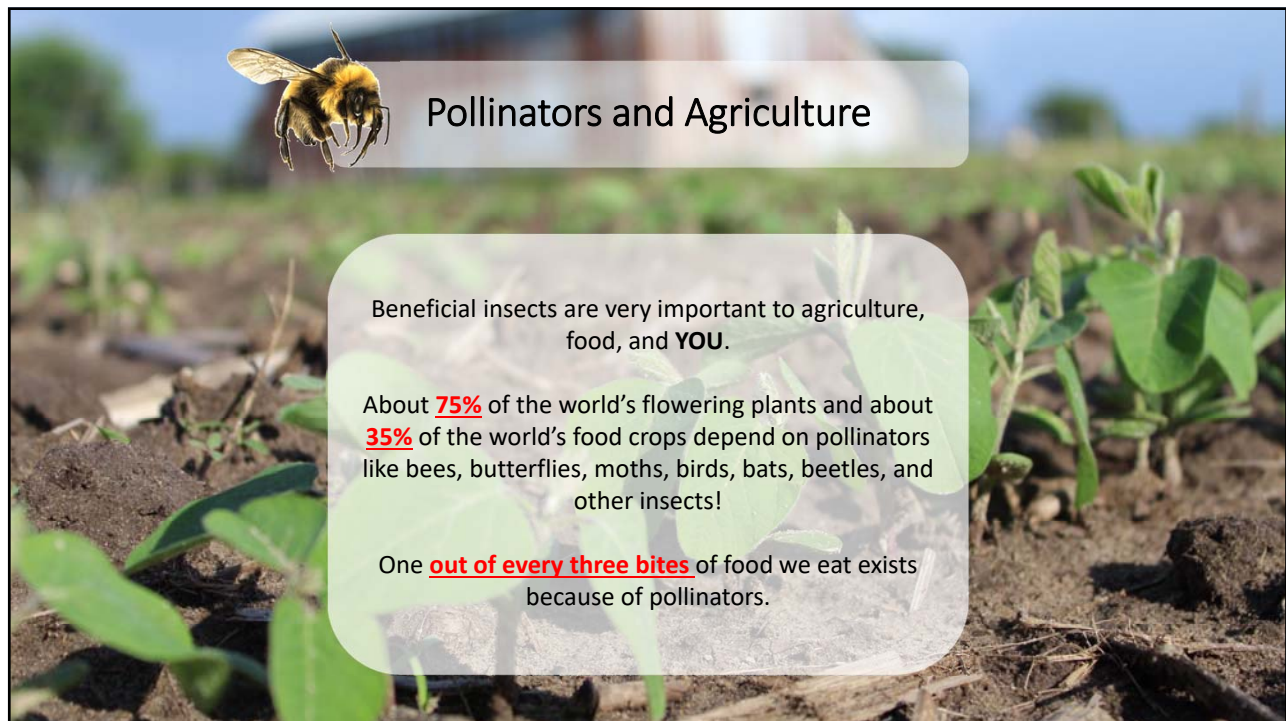
Native Plants & Wildlife

Honey bees rely on nectar and pollen to make enough honey to survive the winter months. Honey bees love **Wild Bergamot**, also called “bee balm”.

The **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** is Illinois’ only native hummingbird. It relies on nectar from flowers to fuel its high metabolism. **Blazing Star** is a favorite.

Monarch butterfly caterpillars can only eat **milkweed!**

The **American Goldfinch** loves to eat seed from the **Purple Coneflower**.



Pollinators and Agriculture

Beneficial insects are very important to agriculture, food, and **YOU**.

About **75%** of the world’s flowering plants and about **35%** of the world’s food crops depend on pollinators like bees, butterflies, moths, birds, bats, beetles, and other insects!


One **out of every three bites** of food we eat exists because of pollinators.



Busy as a Bee!

Do you know how many flowers a honey bee colony must visit to make 1 pound of honey?

~ 2 MILLION FLOWERS!



What foods would we lose if we lost our pollinators?



ALMONDS



APPLES



AVOCADO




CHERRIES



CHOCOLATE



PUMPKINS



TOMATOES



COFFEE

...and SO much more!

What are farmers doing to help native plants and pollinators?

Organizations like the Department of Transportation (DOT), Farm Bureau, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), and more are promoting and implementing conservation practices like **reduced roadside mowing** and establishment of **rights-of-way habitat** to help our pollinators!

Many farmers have taken farmland out of production to plant **pollinator habitat**, just like this! Farmers have planted native habitat to benefit birds, insects like the Monarch and the endangered Rusty patched bumble bee, and other wildlife.

BEEcome a Pollinator Activity!

Circle your favorite pollinator and pollinate your friends' flowers!



What can you do to help?

Plant Native Plants!
Become a Citizen Scientist!
 Learn to identify plants, insects, and wildlife!
Volunteer in your community!
 Educate your friends and family!

iNaturalist.org  **FIE LD.**

 **Monarch Watch.org**
 Education • Conservation • Research

BeeSpotter 
 beespotter.org



Visit www.kankakeecountyswcd.org for great resources on native plants, pollinators, wildlife identification, local conservation, and more!

References

PHOTOS:

Photos by Kankakee County Soil & Water Conservation District or accessed from www.unsplash.com.

Figure 1. Pollination illustration, retrieved from https://www.proprofs.com/quiz-school/topic_images/p1a684svep19fa19a717161s1pfv03.jpg

Illinois Wildflowers: <https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/>

INFORMATION:

Pheasants Forever: <https://pheasantsforever.org/>

Ag in the Classroom, Pollinator Ag Mag:
http://www.agintheclassroom.org/TeacherResources/AgMags/AITC440_W7%20Pollinator%20Ag%20Mag%20for%20Smartboard.pdf

Illinois Monarch Project Mowing Guidelines for Pollinators:
https://www.ilfb.org/media/5266/final_imp_mowingguidance_june2019_printversion.pdf

Illinois Department of Transportation: <http://www.idot.illinois.gov/home/monarch>

iNaturalist: <https://www.inaturalist.org/>

Monarch Watch: <https://www.monarchwatch.org/>

Bee Spotter: <https://beespotter.org/>

Field Museum Rapid Color Guides: <https://fieldguides.fieldmuseum.org/guides?region=1039>