

Pollinator Pathways

October 2019

Hello Everyone,

It's Fall and getting cold. We are trying not to turn on the oil burner quite yet.



For those of us who are homeowners that means 'clean up the gardens and lawns' but what does *clean up the gardens* and lawns really mean? This phrase means many things to many people. It can mean *make everything neat* but neat is different things to different people. Visually, *neat* can range from your property looking like a golf course to it looking like a jungle. Neat is definitely in the eye of the beholder.

Pretend you are a pollinator. "Neat" for a pollinator would mean everything about survival. 'Neat' would mean having plant stalks and leaves, water and mulch and areas that will provide food and overwintering shelter.

If we are serious about helping pollinators year round then a most important step is to make Fall Clean up Pollinator Friendly.

The most commonly used phrase in Pollinator Friendly gardening is DO LESS. The reward is MORE.

So! Do less...Don't cut back perennials. Tidy out weeds and general debris but leave the plants and seeds for the birds to forage in. Seeds will be new plants in the spring for the pollinators. Rake /Mulch leaves off the lawn. Mow at a 3" level to give grass a good start when it warms up in the Spring. Leaf litter at the edge of the lawn is free fertilizer. It is also habitat for little creatures and moth pupae. Leaves are also good mulch on the gardens. Don't bother using chemicals on your lawn and gardens. Generally speaking native plants, flowers, grasses, shrubs & trees don't need chemical input. And make a brush pile. All the creatures and birds use brush piles all year long.

Everyone has fall chores that are individualized to their property but in general....DO LESS.

One of the most fun Fall things is planting. A lot of bulbs are planted in the Fall but a lot of wildflowers can also be planted in Fall and Winter. Hard to believe that you can plant in the snow, but you can!

Come join us at these upcoming events.

**POLLINATOR CONVERSATIONS:
Seeds for next Year's Pollinators**

Tues., Oct 15th – 7-8pm - E. Kingston Public Library, East Kingston, NH

Weds., Oct 23rd – 6-7pm – Kingston Community Library, Kingston, NH

By planting milkweed and other plants, you can help monarchs, bees and butterflies in your yard or community. Get some seeds to plant before the ground freezes. Learn about the different species of milkweed, their water/soil/sun requirements and how to plant them. Bring your questions and any seeds you'd like to share (optional). Please register by emailing marghi3maples@gmail.com

For more information on these events go to:

<https://www.kingstonnh.org/conservation-commission/pages/pollinator-pathways/events>



Borage



Cosmos

The following is a list of local native plants and the best time to sow them.

Seeds which Require Winter Cold to Germinate (Sow outdoors in fall or winter)

Alliums
Aronia
Bayberry
Beardtongue
Blazing star
Blue-eyed grass
Boneset
Bunchberry
Elderberry
Geranium
Iris
Joe-Pye Weed
Milkweed
Rose
Serviceberry
Shrub dogwoods
Spicebush
Vervain
Violet
Wild plum

Seeds for Fall Sowing

Aster
Bush Honeysuckle
Buttonbush
Campanula
Columbine
Coneflower (Echinacea)
Fern spores
Jack-in-the-pulpit
Lobelia
Milkweed
Rhododendron
St. Johnswort
Spirea
Strawberry, wild
Sweet Pepperbush
Wintergreen

Source: WildSeedProject.org

One of Winter's good aspects is that we can roam through websites relating to conservation, pollinators, planting and dream about the coming year's projects.

Some sites that have good information are:

- **Extension.unh.edu.** The UNH Cooperative Extension is an amazing resource. The extension is many faceted with a variety of programs and they are always willing to help. Their Ask UNH Infoline will answer questions and point you in the right direction. 1-877-398-4769 or answers@unh.edu
- **Xerces.org** is an amazing website that deals only with invertebrates. They have so many good references to help. You can happily get lost in their website.

Make a list of your favorite sites for information. All of us together can make a difference in helping to restore what pollinators need for survival.

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