



Lyme Grows Native

Lyme Pollinator Pathway



Lyme Pollinator Pathway aims to help Lyme residents and friends establish and connect pollinator-friendly habitats that provide food sources for bees, butterflies, birds, and other pollinators.

Pollinators, which pollinate 75 percent of the world's flowering plants including 35 percent of our food crops, are in trouble because of lack of habitat. You can help by planting patches of native vegetation that are pollinator-friendly. If we all grow patches, they will connect like stepping stones to create a pollinator pathway of nutrition and protection. Even the smallest patch will help and can create a sense of satisfaction for your participation in this vital community project.

Join the Pollinator Pathway. Create habitat to benefit pollinators in your backyard.



Provide a source of water.

Leave the leaves and allow "gone-to-seed" flowers to winter over.



Reduce your lawn.



Add Native Vegetation to your landscape.



Avoid pesticides.

No caterpillars = no butterflies.



Control invasives.



See the back of this flyer for more information.

Visit us on Facebook and online: lymelandtrust.org/lyme-pollinator-pathway/#

Contact us: LymePollinator@gmail.com

Contact us to be placed on our email list to get information and notices and to learn how to get a 6" or 12" Pollinator Pathway medallion to post at your patch.

Register your pollinator patch: pollinator-pathway.org

Bee Pollinator-Friendly

What you can do to Bee Pollinator-Friendly. It's easy!

Rethink your lawn and your idea of beauty in your landscape. Create habitats for pollinators that provide shelter, diverse native vegetation for nourishment, and water. Perfectly manicured lawns do not support biodiversity. Reduce the size of your lawn, and mow it less often. Allow clover and native flowers to grow along with the grasses in your lawn.

Grow native pollinator-friendly plants and welcome the native creatures that live on them. Add native plants to your ornamental garden. Even just one large container planting will help. Growing native flowers, trees, and shrubs benefit pollinators who depend upon specific host plants for survival. Some common beneficial native plants are milkweed, coneflowers, butterfly weed, clover, violets, redbud trees, blueberry, flowering dogwood, and oak trees.

Leave the leaves and "gone-to-seed" flowers to winter over. The seeds and berries feed birds. Drying and then rotting leaves and stems shelter eggs and larva of butterflies and other insects through the winter. Allow larva time to hatch in the spring before disturbing the beds.

Avoid the use of chemicals—pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers and rodenticides. Don't kill native caterpillars and larva that are feeding on your native plants. No caterpillars = no butterflies. No insects = no insect-eating birds. Learn to love holey leaves and petals. Follow the rule of ten. View your plants from 10 feet away. Never use neonicotinoids or buy plants treated with neonicotinoids. The poison remains in the plants for months and is particularly deadly to bees. Buy your plants from reputable garden centers. Limit the use of nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizers, which are contributing to the degradation of groundwater and water body ecosystems. Never use rodenticides. Rodenticides cause unintended consequences by killing the birds and other animals that prey on the rodents that are poisoned.

Learn to identify and control invasive plants. Invasive plants crowd out native plants. They do not provide good nutrition and the birds that eat the berries may not have enough energy to survive the long journey for migration. Poison Ivy, although hated by humans, is a native plant and is not considered an invasive species. It is beneficial to native wildlife. That does not mean you can't remove it.:

Recognize and control Asian Jumping Worms. Although no earthworms are native, most are beneficial. Jumping worms, however, process surface leaf litter and mulch in a way that renders the soil unusable by plants. Look out for soil that looks like coffee grounds or brown popcorn and be careful about bringing contaminated soil home.

Provide a source of water for drinking and bathing. Place a rock or rocks in your birdbath to help insects climb in and out.

Get your soil tested to know which plants will thrive.

Only use lighting when necessary. Excess lighting and glare negatively affect birds and other pollinators. Shield outside lights. If safety is a concern, install motion detector lights and timers. Draw the curtains or shades at night to keep light inside.