Pollinators

What Pollinators Do For Us

- Pollinators are critical to our food production system
- More than 100 U.S.-grown crops rely on pollinators
- The Honey Bee is our primary pollinator

Common Name: Eastern Tiger Swallowtail; Dense Blazing Star
Scientific Name: Papilio glaucus; Liatris spicata
This native plant helps improve the ecosystem while also attracting native Lepidoptera pollinators.

Common Name: Western Honey Bee
Scientific Name: Apis mellifera
- Most common in Delaware
- Pollinate crops & produce honey
- Pollen basket attached to the hind leg

Common Name: American HoverFly
Scientific Name: Eupeodes americanus
- Diptera
- Native to North America
- Accidental pollinators
Other Native Pollinators:

- Mason bees, Leaf cutters, Cuckoo bees.

These pollinators all have different characteristics. For example, the Mason bee (Above, Osmia lignaria) is blue!

Common Name: Red Necked False Blister Beetle

Scientific Name: Asclera ruficollis

Some pollinators come from the order Coleoptera. This beetle has hardened elytra, which is a major characteristic of Coleoptera. They are frequently found on flowers, because that is where they mate, and pollen is a big part of their diet. Be careful dealing with them, because they do have toxic defense chemicals.

Ways to Promote Pollinator Activity

- Plant native species
- Avoid / limit pesticide use
- Provide water and shelter

Fig. 5: Penstemon digitalis
Fig. 6: Symphyotrichum novae-angliae
Fig. 7: Pycnanthemum incanum

This information is brought to you by the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension, a service of the UD College of Agriculture and Natural Resources — a land-grant institution. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.