



# Pollinators

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## 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



*Tiger Swallowtail Photo by G. Ferry*

**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.



*Honey Bee Photo by G. Ferry*

**Common Name:** Western Honey Bee

**Scientific Name:** *Apis mellifera*

- Most common in Delaware
- Pollinate crops & produce honey
- Pollen basket attached to the hind leg



*Calibas, Wikimedia Commons*

**Common Name:** American HoverFly

**Scientific Name:** *Eupeodes americanus*

- Diptera
- Native to North America
- Accidental pollinators



Brian Buckner, Jones Lab at Bowdoin

## 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!



Red Necked False Blister Beetle Pollinator, Wikimedia Commons

**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*

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