



# POLLINATORS

## IMPORTANCE & IDENTIFICATION

### The Importance of Pollinators

Pollinators are an integral part to the world. Approximately 75 percent of all flowering plants are dependent on pollination. Also, approximately 35 percent of all food crops depend on pollination to reproduce. This means on average one out of three bites of food can be attributed to pollinators.

Pollinators are in severe decline from habitat loss, disease, parasites, and environmental contaminants. In Oregon, there are approximately 500 species of native bees.



Rufous hummingbird

### Cross-Pollination

Also called allogamy, cross-pollination is when pollen is delivered from the stamen (male part of a flower) to the stigma (female part of a flower). Cross-pollination can occur by wind (Anemophily), water (Hydrophily) or animals (Zoophily).

Zoophily can occur purposefully, such as a bee travelling from flower to flower, or accidentally, such as

a mammal brushing up against a flower and pollinating another via pollen falling off of their fur.

### Types of Pollinators

Pollinators include a variety of insects and mammalian species, including (but not limited to):

- Ants
- Bats
- Bees
- Beetles
- Butterflies
- Flies
- Hoverflies
- Hummingbirds
- Lizards
- Midges
- Mosquitos
- Moths
- Rodents
- Wasps



Western Bumble bee

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## Ways to Help Pollinators

Many pollinators are considered endangered species, and populations are continuing to plummet. Therefore, it is important humans do our part to ensure pollinator populations stay strong.

### Improve Pollinator Habitat

Planting pollinator-friendly plants is a great way to improve pollinator habitat. Refer to the JSWCD “Pollinator Plants” factsheet for a full list.

Select your plants with a diversity in pollinator attraction and bloom time – to keep pollinators around all year!

#### Did you Know:

70% of native bee species nest underground, about 0.5 to 3 feet deep.

### Behavior Change

There are certain behaviors we can all change to support pollinator habitat, besides planting pollinator-friendly plants.

- **Mowing:** constant mowing in your yard, including mowing over leaves can disrupt pollinator habitat. Several species of pollinators, including most species of bees.
- **Leaf removal:** leaves are natural mulch, and provide habitat for ground nesting bees and other species. When leaves are removed, so is this habitat
- **Insecticide use:** avoid using insecticides as much as possible; insecticides such as neonicotinoids are known to be harmful to bees and pollinators.



Monarch Butterfly

### References

[Bee City USA Pollinator ID](#)

[General Insect Identification](#)

Oregon Department of Agriculture ([bee identification](#))

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife ([hummingbird](#), [bat](#), [lizard identification](#))

[Student Conservation Association Wasp Identification Guide](#)

[USDA Insects & Pollinators](#) (includes monarch and bee information)

Various pollinator apps for identification (see JSWCD’s “Nature Apps” factsheet)