

November 2022

# Barrington Pollinator Pathway



Welcome to all who are interested in growing the pollinator pathway in Barrington!

As the growing season winds down and we take a physical break from our garden spaces, make time during the quiet season to think through what you enjoyed in your garden this year. Was it a swath of perennials in your favorite hue? An array of birds feasting and nesting in your garden? As you start planning next year's garden (I know, it starts early!) think about what changes you might want to make next year. Are you trying to attract more pollinators? Eliminate more of your lawn? Inspiration can come from experts or from the neighbor down the street. This newsletter offers some food for thought as you finish up for the season and start planning the next.

## Pollinator Habitat 101

Are you looking to dig a bit deeper on the science behind pollinator gardening? In need of a refresher on how to go about planning, planting and maintaining the best habitat for pollinators? We recommend exploring the five-part webinar series hosted by the Ohio State University College of Environmental Sciences, Pollinator Habitat 101. In this series, experts like Dr. Doug Tallamy, Heather Holm and Matthew Shepherd explore both new and time-tested information and lay out actionable steps you can take in your yard and your community. The series ran on Fridays in October and early November, but all sessions were recorded and are available to watch on demand. In addition to webinar recordings, each session has a host of resources to explore. You can view all of the materials at the event website here:

<https://u.osu.edu/pollinators101/?fbclid=IwAR08z5v6M-2TJlIQa5cfEUm-xrViySaoFRb48eTO8ncg3RZ2JBroFab9-2E>.



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

**POLLINATOR HABITAT 101**  
An Introduction and Refresher



## Putting Your Native Plant Garden and Yard to Bed Sustainably

Your native flowers have provided food for many pollinating insects over the summer. Now these insects need shelter for overwintering and nesting sites in the spring. When you put your garden to bed this fall please keep in mind these important tips:

- To provide shelter for insects and winter food for birds, leave flower stalks and seed heads intact over the winter. When you cut dead stalks in the spring don't cut them all the way to the ground – insects will be looking for hollow or pithy stems to nest in. Leave the dead stalks in the summer for bee larvae to have time to develop. The new growth of the plant will hide the stem stubble.
- Leave the leaves in the fall – butterflies, moths, and other insects use them for winter protection. If you do clear leaves off your lawn, spread them in your beds as mulch or leave a thin layer on some of your lawn. They will provide nutrition to your plants as they decompose. If you remove them from your beds in spring, wait until late spring when insects have emerged.
- Avoid use of heavy bark mulch or mulch that is chemically treated. If you use bark mulch, mulch only the first foot or so of your beds and use compost or leaves in the rest of the bed. Leave some bare soil too – many bees need access to bare soil for nesting.
- Leave a portion of your grass unmowed to provide winter shelter. Unmowed or less frequently mowed grass that is free of herbicides allows dandelions and clover to grow in spring. Although not native, these flowers provide food for a diversity of bees.
- Dead trees provide many resources for insects. If you don't want to leave one in your yard, find a spot for a few logs, preferably with bark still on them. A brush pile in a corner of your yard will also provide habitat for numerous insects.

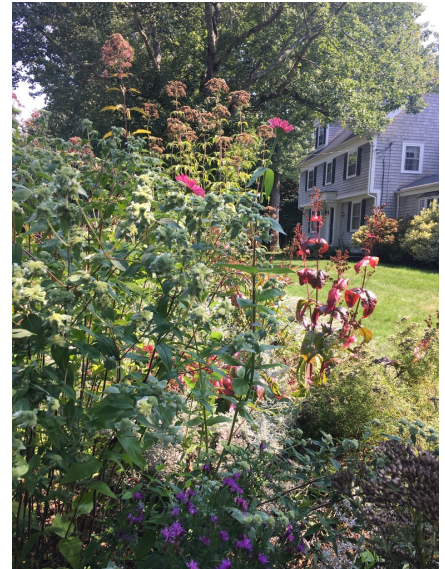
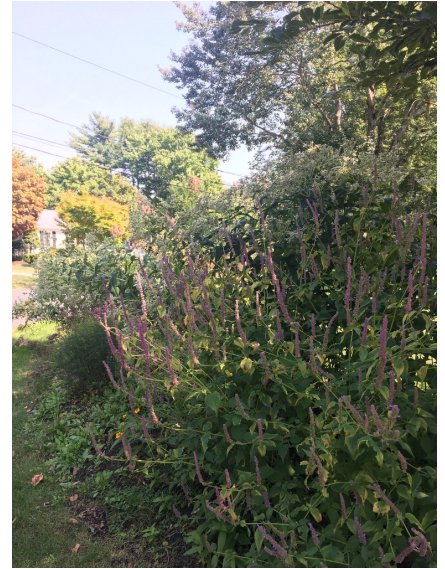


Garden and lawn care to benefit pollinators tends to look messier than traditional neat as a pin landscaping, but when you see how many bees, other insects, and birds benefit from these practices, neat as a pin yards start to look like the deserts they really are.



## Pollineighbor Spotlight

Elizabeth “Zim” Zimmerman and Tom Gardos started their native gardening adventure two growing seasons ago with a big bed of dirt (formerly grass) and a dozen native plants. Two years on, their bed has grown by leaps and bounds, growing up and spreading out.



Says Zim, “The garden is certainly not manicured, and I would venture to say it looks a bit wild and unkempt, but I love the textures and colors and the continual motion of the insects, butterflies and bees as they get to work on their plant of choice. And when I look at our garden, it is so much more interesting than the grass! Neighbors have commented that they look forward to walking by and see how the plants are growing, changing, blooming, and wonder what is coming up next--all to say, a vast improvement over our former boring grassy patch. ”

Books that inspired their journey: Doug Tallamy: *Bringing Nature Home* & *The Nature of Oaks*  
Barbara Kingsolver: *Prodigal Summer*

Please share this newsletter with a friend or neighbor, and if you're not on the pollinator pathway map yet, please consider joining!

**<https://www.pollinator-pathway.org>**

Please reach out to us with questions, newsletter ideas, or photos of your own pollinator garden. You can reach us at [education@blct.org](mailto:education@blct.org).



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