



NEIGHBORHOOD TIPS

BJWSA is asking customers to adjust irrigation timers to water only three days per week, on a rotating schedule. Customers with odd-numbered addresses are asked to irrigate on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Those with even-numbered addresses are asked to irrigate on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Irrigate between midnight and 3 am or 9 am to noon. No irrigation should occur on Mondays or any day between the hours of 3 am and 9 am. (This is not a concern if you irrigate with well water.)

Landscaping experts advise that lawns should be watered no more than three times a week. Overwatering your lawn suffocates your grass and also stunts root growth. It's better to water less frequently, but more deeply. Watering during the hottest time of the day wastes water as it quickly evaporates.

CELEBRATING POLLINATOR WEEK – JUNE 20-26



Pollinators visit flowers in search of food, mates, shelter and nest-building materials. The secret bond of the partnership is that neither plant nor pollinator populations can exist in isolation – should one disappear, the other may be one generation away from disaster.

Watching butterflies and bees flitting around our gardens in summer is a joyous experience. But Pollination is much more than fascinating natural history. It is an essential ecological function. That's why National Pollinator Week was designated and approved **unanimously** by Congress in 2007 as a step toward addressing the urgent issue of declining pollinator populations.

Pollinator Week is June 20-26 this year and is celebrated internationally to promote the valuable ecosystem services provided by bees, birds, butterflies, bats, beetles, moths, wasps and flies. This week brings attention to the importance of the relationship between pollinators and plants.



*Not just bees & butterflies...**Birds**, bats, moths, flies, **beetles**, wasps, and small mammals, are pollinators.*

Why Pollinators Matter



Some of the many foods that rely on pollinators

Pollinators transfer pollen from one plant to another, allowing plants to produce fruits, vegetables, and nuts. Pollination is a crucial method that helps all of us, humans and wildlife, get fed. Research studies estimate that about 75% of the food sources in the world are dependent on pollination. But today pollinators like bees and wasps are in danger of extinction. Loss of habitat is the principal reason, followed by improper use of pesticides, pollution, and invasive species.

Visits from pollinators also result in larger, more flavorful fruits and higher crop yields. In the United States alone, pollination of agricultural crops is valued at 10 billion dollars annually. Globally, pollination services are likely worth more than 3 trillion dollars.

- More than half of the world's diet of fats and oils come from animal-pollinated plants (palm oil, canola, sunflowers, and more)
- More than 150 food crops in the U.S. depend on pollinators, including almost all fruit and grain crops
- Bees are the heavy lifters, contributing the most by pollinating about 130 crops every year in the US
- Bees are extremely innovative creatures who, due to efficiency and quality production, construct special 'insect pathways' that connect all the major wildlife areas



Bees perform the lion's share of pollination duties

Successful pollination allows plants to produce seeds and then reproduce. Seeds are key to producing the next generation of plants, which provide food for the next generation of pollinators and other wildlife.

This exchange between pollinating animals and plants has a big impact on clean air, water and soil erosion. Plants increase carbon sequestration by removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The roots of plants hold the soil in place and its foliage buffers the impact of rain as it falls to the earth.



Bats and moths take over the night shift for pollination (bats are the sole pollinator of agave, used to make Tequila)

HOME GARDENS CAN HELP ATTRACT POLLINATORS

There are many ways home gardeners can help pollinators and in turn beautify their yards. Small plants and patches of flowers (including containers) can attract many pollinators. Even gardens in suburban communities help increase nearby agricultural yields.



Fall-blooming asters provide essential forage for migrating monarchs

- Plant natives, that attract local pollinators; especially plant specialists like goldenrod, perennial sunflowers, coneflowers and asters
- Two keystones among trees and plants are native oaks and goldenrod; there are many species of goldenrod: small and compact or tall and willowy, enough to suit your needs
- Go to <http://nwf.org/NativePlantFinder> for native plant suggestions in our zip code. There is also a brochure from <https://www.pollinator.org/guides> on best plants for the Coastal Southeast
- Increase the abundance and diversity of your plantings, try one or two at a time to see what works best; plant fall bloomers for migrators passing through
- Remove invasive species. See list at: <https://scnps.org/education/invasive-species>
- Consider shrinking the lawn - Lawns provide a useful pathway around trees, shrubs and flowers, but a large lawn requires a lot of water, fertilization and care
- Bring birds into your garden by putting in feeders or installing a small bubbler, add a bat house
- Avoid pesticides or use with care
- For nature nerds, create caterpillar pupation sites under your trees. Replace lawn around trees with well-planted beds with ground covers appropriate for our area. Add a fallen log or old tree stump; treasure leaf litter
- Support Farmers & Beekeepers by buying local honey & locally produced organic foods

Native Oaks support over 500 different moths and butterflies (moths are considered super-pollinators)



Many experts cite goldenrod as our single most valuable perennial plant for pollinators (Not to be confused with ragweed, which makes us sneeze)

Even the smallest action you take in your yard is helpful to pollinators

The Grounds & Landscaping Committee