

BACK TO NATURE



Powerful Pollinators

Hear the buzz about pollination

Pollination helps plants make seeds and fruit. Male plants make pollen, which is carried to female plants.



During certain times of the year, we can see pollen. It's the yellow dust that covers cars and puddles of water.

Wind can spread pollen, but plants really rely on certain animals, called pollinators, to get the job done.

Butterflies, bees, hummingbirds, moths, beetles, and even bats are great pollinators. Out of the top 100 crops that feed 90% of the world, honeybees are responsible for pollinating 70 of them! That's a lot of work for a little bee. Without bees your next visit to the grocery store would be very different.

Imagine no apples, broccoli, watermelon, strawberries, celery, or blueberries.



Watch [this video](#) to hear about honeybees and check out this list of [native pollinators](#).

Butterfly Feeder Craft

How to feed the butterflies!

What you will need: string, plastic lid (like from yogurt), fruit, beads.

Step 1: poke 3-4 holes around the edge of your lid.

Step 2: Tie a string through each hole and slide on beads. Then connect them so the lid hangs flat below.

Step 3: Place cut fruit (oranges, strawberries, etc) on lid.

Hang your feeder outside and wait for the butterflies!



Go Outside

Go to a local garden, park, or open space with plants. Bring a notebook and record observations.

Did you see any pollinators? How many? What type of pollinators did you see? What color flower were they on? (Some pollinators only see certain colors. Or even see colors differently than humans!) What type of pollinators did you see?



June 22-26 is [National Pollinator Week](#) so make sure to take pictures of your findings and use the hashtags

#casbacktonature #casnatureplay

How to Garden for Butterflies

Did you know that there are entire gardens dedicated to pollinators?

Pollinator gardens are made up of plants that are designed to attract pollinators. When planning a pollinator garden, it's best to go with native plants. Native plants are plants that are from the area you're in. For New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware, this might include:



Milkweed, New England Aster, Black-eyed Susan, Pussywillow, Purple Coneflower, and more!

Some local pollinators you can attract are:

Monarch Butterfly, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Painted Lady Butterfly, Bumblebee, Carpenter Bee, Sweat Bee, Blister Beetle, Sap Beetle, and the Ruby Throated Hummingbird.

For help in planting ideas you can contact Rutgers Cooperative Extension or check out their suggestions [here](#).

