

Upper Valley Pollinator Partners (UVPP) Newsletter, October 2020

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE FOR A POLLINATOR GARDEN!

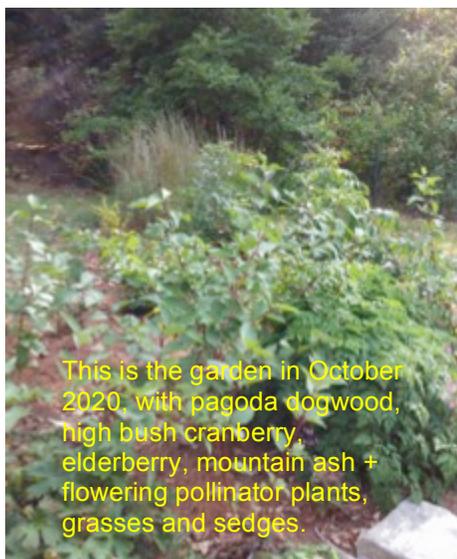
There can never be too many of these gardens. Native bees and other pollinators need good sources of nectar and pollen; certain plants are better than others in meeting these needs. Small gardens work: check out the tiny oval pollinator garden behind the Kilton Library in West Lebanon. When attracted by the pollinator plant flowers, bees then visit the vegetables grown in the raised beds to pollinate them. Check our website¹ for guidance.



Pollinator garden on E Wheelock street in Hanover

Pollinator Plaques: These attractive plaques are still available at Hanover Planning Office. Drop off or email the documentation form that describes your garden. Eventually we will post a map showing where the Upper Valley Pollinator Gardens are located. See our pollinator homepage for details about the plaque². We hope to meet the goal of 100 NEW pollinator gardens by 2021.

Repurpose Your Lawn with Pollinator Habitat³: Fall is the time to smother lawns. Next spring the ground will be ready for planting native plants and shrubs. And, by next fall these new plants should be well on their way.



This is the garden in October 2020, with pagoda dogwood, high bush cranberry, elderberry, mountain ash + flowering pollinator plants, grasses and sedges.



Some of this lawn was covered with 6 mil black plastic in fall 2019 weighted down with logs (background), and planted with bare-root saplings in spring 2020 .

For shrubs: The NH state nursery has many native shrubs and trees for sale at reasonable price.

For more info: The Exchange on NHPR, August 10 2020 program highlighted the topic of re-wilding lawns and the benefits of less mowing.

Getting Ready for Winter - for overwintering pollinators⁴

Be a lazy leaf-raker. Move leaves to the edge of your lawn, and leave the leaves alone. They provide winter protection for many bees, moths and butterflies. Don't prune all your plants and be sure to leave a few hollow stems in which certain bees place their eggs for the winter.

Check out the Pollinator Pathways Idea⁵

Do we need to strategically locate pollinator gardens? Earlier this year, Lebanon garden guru Pat McGovern sent us information about this idea, as some gardening groups in NH have started this in earnest.

Charlie Nardozi, the VT garden guy, also had a program about Pollinator Pathways. One important fact in his story is this: native "*bees, for example, have a foraging range of only ½ mile. Having large areas is critical for their survival. So connecting habitats is important*". Non-native honeybees can travel 2 or more miles. Native plants are essential for many insects such as pollinators, as they often need a specific 'host' plant for pollinator or other insect larvae (example: Oaks are host to 934 different insect larvae, 557 of them caterpillars) and many pollinators seek high quality pollinator plants such as bee balm and *Echinacea* for food (nectar and pollen).

This pathways idea originated with Sarah Bergman, who has been working for 10 years to create a 12' wide and 1-mile long pollinator pathway in Seattle, linking two parks. Bergman wants to spread her idea to other urban areas, but her idea is interesting to think about, even in more rural areas. Trails and roadsides are possible candidates for pathways. Below is a link to Bergman's website; she is pushing the idea countrywide, and she asserts that all gardeners should be planting with pollinators in mind.

Where could this proposal be implemented: In town? By neighborhood? On our trails? Many roadside pollinator plants have disappeared, victims of mowing, non-native plant invasions (mugwort, sweet white clover and colt's foot), and ditching practices; can roadside management be modified to restore these former pollinator pathways?

Coming in November: update on monarchs.

¹ Hanover Biodiversity Committee webpages on pollinators:

- <https://www.hanovernh.org/biodiversity-committee/pages/upper-valley-pollinator-information>

² Pollinator Plaque Information:

- <https://www.hanovernh.org/biodiversity-committee>

³ Repurpose your lawn:

- NHPR The Exchange program, 8/11/20 <https://www.nhpr.org/post/have-you-considered-re-wilding-your-lawn>
- NH State Nursery has bare root native trees and shrubs at a very reasonable price: <https://www.nh.gov/nhnursery/ordering/index.htm>

⁴ Preparing your yard for winter

- <https://xerces.org/2017/10/06/leave-the-leaves/>
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/30/realestate/fall-garden-cleanup.html>

⁵ Pollinator Pathways

- Charlie Nardozi's radio program: <https://www.wnpr.org/post/connecticut-garden-journal-pollinator-pathway>
- Pathways in NH: <https://takingactionforwildlife.org/article/small-changes-small-creatures>
- Information on the original Pollinator Pathways project: <http://www.pollinatorpathway.com/about/>