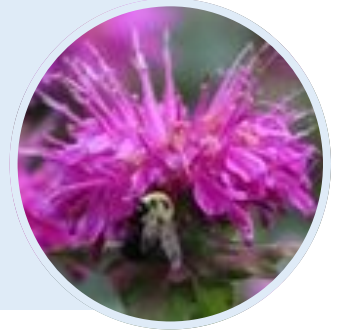


Why are flowers brightly colored?



Flowers are brightly colored because they want to grab the attention of birds and insects!

Why? Flowers make two things: nectar and pollen.

Nectar is a sweet sugar water that attracts insects and birds. The nectar is a great food source for them.

Pollen is a powder that is made by the flower.

When it is passed from flower to flower, it makes the flower able to make seeds. Without another flower's pollen, a flower cannot grow to form seeds. Without seeds, the plant cannot grow the next generation.

Let's take an another look!



A bag of cheese puffs is sitting in front of you. You reach your hand into the bag, and bring out a good handful to eat.



What is left on your fingers? That's right... orange cheese dust! Instead of washing your hands, you touch your drinking glass. What's left on the glass? The cheese dust. That is how pollination works.

The pollen is like the cheese dust. An insect stops in for a drink, the pollen gets stuck on the insect's feet and legs. The insect flies to a new flower, and some of the pollen from the first flower falls into the new flower.

When this happens, the flower is fertilized and is able to make seeds.

LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS!

WITHOUT POLLINATORS IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR FLOWERS TO MAKE NEW SEEDS!



Without seeds, many foods we enjoy would not be easy to find!

Can you think of a food that you enjoy that comes from a seed?

Wildlife would also have the same problem. Pollinators are so important. Just think, the world would be so different without them.



My Pollinator Garden



Pollinators need our help! So many pollinators are in trouble. The best way to help pollinators is to plant your own pollinator garden. Look below on how to start your own pollinator garden.

Step 1. Pick a sunny spot.

Step 2. Plant native flowers. Pick a variety of different colored flowers.

Step 3. Enjoy your garden! Pick a spot to sit and watch all your pollinators. Keep a list of new insects you see. Or draw pictures of your garden.

Date I enjoyed my garden

Flowers I planted in my pollinator garden

Draw your favorite thing about your pollinator garden.

Pollinators I have seen in my garden
