

## POLLINATOR GARDEN INSTALLATION CHECKLIST

Determine the following:

- What pollinators currently use your yard
- If you have invasive plants that need to be removed from your yard and remove them
- If you have native plants that you want to incorporate into your new pollinator garden
- Your soil conditions in the site you want to install your new pollinator garden
- Your hardiness zone
- The sun exposure and orientation of your new pollinator garden site
- The natural level and flow of water in your new pollinator garden site
- If there are other location-related factors that will influence the final size, shape, and location of your new pollinator garden
- If you need to purchase any tools or supplies to install your garden (see Garden Design Checklist)



After you have all the basic information above, you can complete the installation by following the steps below.

- Choose plants to fit the growing conditions in your yard, support the pollinators you already have, and you may entice new classes of pollinators to your yard (use Plant Finder database: <http://plantfinder.newenglandwild.org/plant-search>).
- Calculate how many plants of each kind you need for your garden and where you can purchase them.
- Draw a planting plan to guide your installation.
- Plan out your installation timeline—including how long it will take to remove grass for your new pollinator garden.
- When the site is prepared, and you are ready for installation:
  - Purchase native plants or seeds from growers that do not use neonics or other systemic pesticides
  - Gather necessary tools
  - Plant plants and sow seeds
  - Water thoroughly
  - Mulch plants but leave some bare soil spots in the yard for native bee nest sites
  - Keep seeds moist to germinate
  - Once seeds emerge, thin if necessary, and mulch once plants are about 6 inches tall.
- Maintenance regime (see Pollinator Garden Best Practices):
  - Water (about one inch per week) throughout the first growing season for herbaceous plants, throughout the first three years for woody plants
  - Mulch each spring
  - Remove old seed heads and other debris after several 50-degree days in the springtime to allow pollinators to emerge
  - Compost old plant material to use as mulch the following season
  - Do not use pesticides or herbicides near or in your yard.
- Join a conservation effort with your yard—share data, spread the word, post a sign to educate others.