

# Ten questions you asked us about wild pollinators

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## Why are wild pollinators declining in Canada?

Fewer natural spaces are available for wildlife every year, so fewer pollinators find the water, shelter and flowering plants they need to thrive and survive in Canada.

## Can I spray my yard for mosquitoes without harming pollinators?

Residential mosquito sprays are “highly toxic to native pollinators such as bees and butterflies” (*National Wildlife Federation*). Instead, wear repellent and light clothing to deter them.

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## What species of bee needs the most help?

Canada's national registry of at-risk wildlife lists three “endangered” wild bees needing help: the rusty-patched bumblebee, the gypsy cuckoo bumblebee and the macropis cuckoo bee.

## Is beekeeping bad for wild bees?

Domestic bees and wild bees can co-exist, but honeybees can outcompete native bees like the central bumblebee (*right*) for limited resources. Also, honeybees can transmit diseases and parasites to wild bumblebee populations.

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## Where can I find monarch butterflies?

The western monarch population migrates north into B.C. while eastern monarchs summer in the south of most other provinces — with the largest number found in Ontario.

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## Are monarch butterflies ranging further north?

Researchers believe monarchs are ranging northward along with milkweed plants, the sole diet of monarch caterpillars — which steps up Canada's vital importance to monarch populations.

## How can I attract pollinators to my yard?

Try to select flowering plants that bloom at different times — return visits to new flowers will keep pollinators well-fed all season long!

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- + Choose the native plants that grow best where you live.
- + Plant milkweed and native flowers in full sun for butterflies.
- + Plant yellow, blue and purple flowers for native bees.
- + Flowering herbs, trees and shrubs are great pollen sources.

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## Does my “community science” help pollinators?

Environmental research can be enriched with observations collected using nature apps such as iNaturalist and Bumblebee Watch. There is limited observation data about insects, making each entry important.

## What details should I observe about wild pollinators?

iNaturalist recommends that you record and share a clear photo, the date, your location and the species name. Community members can help identify the species, on request.

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**Wait, why does Ducks Unlimited Canada care about bees, beetles and butterflies?**

Well, the habitat that ducks need is also necessary for pollinators — and just as important, pollinators are necessary for growing food all around the world.

