



## **Libraries Need Bees Too! DIY Guide for Your Own Pollinator Garden Box**

**Congratulations!** You are about to improve pollinator habitats in your own space! Did you know that pollinators are responsible for one in three bites of food that you eat? Bees, hummingbirds, butterflies, beetles, and flies, to name a few, are responsible for so many delicious foods we enjoy. From chocolate and coffee to apples and watermelons, we need these vital creatures to pollinate 80% of all flowering species and 35% of the world's crops! And you can do your part to help the pollinators with a few simple steps.

### **Planting Guide for Your DIY Pollinator Garden Box**

Pollinators need year-round food! Plan to have at least one plant blooming during each season. Use the following [Ecoregional Guide](https://www.pollinator.org/guides) (<https://www.pollinator.org/guides>) for a list of native, seasonal plants for your area. Local plant nurseries can help you pick out just the right plant no matter what time of year. Nashville is part of the Eastern Broadleaf Forest Continental Province. Chapel Hill, Raleigh, and Durham are part of the Southeast Mixed Forest Region.

Soil is as important as your plants. We recommend choosing a high-quality potting mix for container gardens to provide all of the nutrients your plants will need. Again, your local plant nurseries can assist you in getting the proper soil.

### **Follow these steps to get started planting!**

- The box can sit on the ground or be placed on a sturdy foundation to give it some height. Painted concrete blocks can raise the box off the ground and make your Pollinator Garden Box stand out!
- The box is made of natural cypress wood. It can be stained or painted for durability.
- The screen bottom and lining should be placed in the Pollinator Garden Box **before** you begin planting.
- In a single layer, place newspaper (as your lining) on top of the screen bottom to keep the soil from running out when you water your garden.
- Add soil to the box about halfway up the sides.
- Choose plants that will balance each other in height, need similar lighting, and can live in the same soil conditions.
- Read instructions for each plant you have chosen about depth for planting and soil conditions.
- Fill in with soil around the tops of your plants until the roots are covered.
- Keep your plants watered according to their needs.
- You may need to add new soil when you change seasons with new plants to give the plants proper nutrients.

### **Stay In Touch with The Bee Cause Project**

We want to stay connected with you and your family beyond this DIY project. Follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram** at The Bee Cause! Please share and tag us in pictures of your Pollinator Garden Box with [@thebeecause](#), [@wholefoodsmarket](#), and [#LibrariesNeesBeesToo](#) so that we can find your posts and encourage others to participate as well. [Sign up here](https://www.thebeecause.org/buzz-newsletter/) for our monthly newsletter (<https://www.thebeecause.org/buzz-newsletter/>).