



Garden Design For Pollinators

What's Your Idea of What Looks Good?



Design Strategies

1. *Right Plant, Right Place*
2. *Tame the disorder*
3. *Plan for blooms throughout the season*



Take Stock of What you Have

1. *What type of soil do you have?*
2. *How much light will your garden receive?*
3. *Is your garden exposed to strong winds?*
4. *Do these conditions vary across your garden?*
5. *How much water is needed to sustain the garden?*

Right Plant, Right Place

Liatris Alternatives

Scientific Name	Common Name	Height	Space	Moisture	Light	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>	Prairie Blazing star	2-4'	1'	Wet, Moist	Full, Partial	purple	purple	purple	
<i>Liatris ligulistylis</i>	Meadow Blazing Star	3-5'	1-2'	Moist, Medium	Full		pink	pink	
<i>Liatris aspera</i>	Rough Blazing Star	3-6'	1-2'	Medium, Dry	Full, Partial	purple	purple	purple	purple



Milkweed Alternatives

Scientific Name	Common Name	Height	Space	Moisture	Light	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
<i>Asclesia verticillata</i>	Whorled milkweed	2'	1-2'	Dry	Full, Partial				white	white	white
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Common Milkweed	3'	2-3'	Medium, Dry	Full, Partial		pink	pink	pink		
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly Milkweed	1-2'	1-2'	Medium, Dry	Full		orange	orange	orange		
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp Milkweed	4'	2-3'	Wet, Moist	Full, Partial		pink	pink	pink		



Tips to Tame the Disorder

How to attract pollinators without looking too messy

1. Define boundaries
2. Design a way in and out
3. Create lines & layers to draw the eye in
4. Provide a place for the eye to rest
5. Place plants to support each other
6. Use a variety of shapes and sizes
7. Mingle host and nectar plants
8. Add extra features
9. Include a sign



Defined Boundaries Make Good Neighbors

Create borders



Use shorter plants at the edges

A Well-defined Entrance is Inviting



Lines and Layers Draw the Eye In



Plant Placement is Just as Important as Plant Choice

Shorter plants hold back the mass

Group 3-5 plants of the same species to create waves of color



Use a Variety of Plant Textures and Heights



Use a Variety of Flower Shapes and Sizes

saucer



composite



bell



pompom



trumpet



star



tubular



bottle



inflated



Provide a Place for the Eye to Rest



Mingle Host Plants with Nectar Plants



Add Extras

- Architectural features
- Insect housing
- Rocks for warming
- Wood for nesting
- Water source

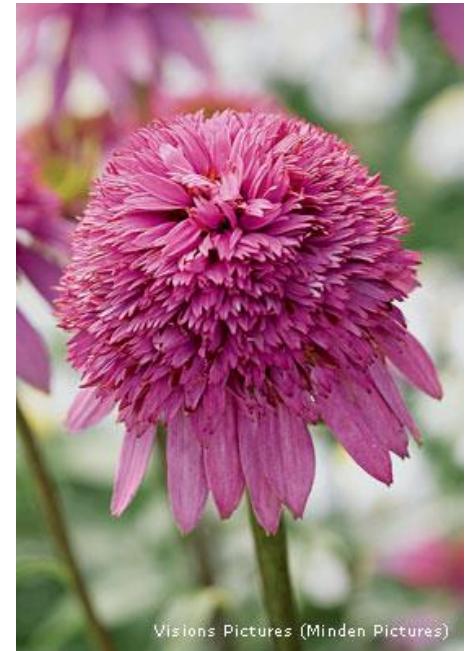


Include a Sign



Limit the Cultivars

- Flower shape may not allow feeding
- Lower pollen and nectar content
- Outcompete natives
- Sterile and won't produce seeds



Tips to Have Blooms Throughout the Season

- Create a foundation of 8-10 plants
- Choose 3 plants for each season
- Plant species in clumps of at least 3'
- Add extras for early / later foragers or special interests

“Power Plants”

Exceptional forage for a wide variety of pollinators

Wildflowers	Shrubs & Trees	Grasses
Agastache (hyssop)	Acer (maple)	Andropogon (bluestem)
Asclepias (milkweed)	Amelanchier (serviceberry)	Scjozacjuroim (little bluestem)
Dalea (prairie clover)	Amorpha (leadplant)	Sporobolus (dropseed)
Echinacea (coneflower)	Ceanothus (wild lilac)	
Eutrochium (joe pye weed)	Prunus (wild plum)	
Helianthus (sunflower)	Ribes (currant)	
Liatris (blazing star)	Rosa (wild rose)	
Monarda (beebalm)	Rubus (raspberry/blackberry)	
Penstemon (beardtongue)	Vaccinium (blueberry)	
Solidago (goldenrod)	Viburnum (arrowwood)	
Symphyotrichum (aster)	Salix discolor (pussy willow)	
Zizia (alexanders)		

A 3-Season Foundation Using Power Plants

SPRING		
Name	Light	Water
Golden Alexander	 	 
Penstemon	 	 
Sunflower	 	 



SUMMER		
Name	Light	Water
Milkweed	 	 
Hyssop	 	
Beebalm	 	



FALL		
Name	Light	Water
Aster	 	
Goldenrod	 	
Liatris	 	  



Shade Tolerant Foundation

SPRING		
Name	Light	Water
Columbine	 	
Virginia Bluebell	 	
Shooting Star	 	



SUMMER		
Name	Light	Water
Dutchman's Breeches	 	
Mountain Mint	 	
Wild Geranium	 	



FALL		
Name	Light	Water
Big Leaf Aster	 	
Mountain Mint	 	
Zig Zag Goldenrod	 	



Extending the Season

Early Bloomers

Pussy Willow



Serviceberry



Jacob's ladder



Lungwort



Pasque flower



Violet



Late Bloomers

Silky Aster



Black-eyed Susan



Aromatic Goldenrod



Gallardia



Sedum



Less Messy

SUMMER		
Name	Light	Water
Butterfly Weed		
Coneflower		
Harebell		

Butterfly Weed



Harebell



Coneflower



FALL		
Name	Light	Water
Silky Aster		
Aromatic Goldenrod		
Black-eyed Susan		

Silky Aster



Aromatic Goldenrod



Black-eyed Susan



Design Exercise

- Pick up 10-20 plates of some plants you want to use in your garden
- Imagine the plate representing 4 plants of that species
- Layout plates (~2' apart)
- Look at color flow
- Look at seasonal change
- Look at sun and water icons

Think About Design Tips:

- 3 plants from each season
- Variety of floral shapes
- Waves of color
- Companion blooming near by
- Shorter plants up front / border

