



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 ligustylis</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>Asclepias 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>Asclepeis tuberosa</i> | Butterfly Milkweed | 1-2' | 1-2' | Medium, Dry | Full | | | orange | orange | orange | |
| <i>Asclepeis 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



inflated



bottle



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 (beebealm) | Rubus (raspberry/blackberry) | |
| Penstemon (beardtongue) | Vaccinium (blueberry) | |
| Solidago (goldenrod) | Viburnum (arrowwood) | |
| Symphotrichum (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

Butterfly Weed









Harebell



Coneflower









| SUMMER | | |
|----------------|---|---|
| Name | Light | Water |
| Butterfly Weed |  |  |
| Coneflower |  |  |
| Harebell |  |  |

Silky Aster



Aromatic Goldenrod



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

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

