

Creating Pollinator Habitats

Pollinators such as bees, butterflies, wasps, flies, beetles and hummingbirds, are crucial contributors to ecosystem health and diversity. Pollination is the process by which pollen is moved from the stigma to the anther of a flower, or between two flowers resulting in fertilization. This allows plants to produce seeds, fruits or flowers. Over 75% of flowering plants need pollination to survive, and pollinators account for 35% of crop production worldwide.

Pollinating species are experiencing global declines due to the loss of habitats and flowering plants, as well as pathogens, parasites, and pesticides. By planting pollinator habitats in agricultural and urban regions, we can increase biodiversity and improve crop pollination. Pollinator gardens are also an excellent tool for education and recreational uses. For this reason, it is important to develop gardens to protect, enjoy, and restore pollinator health and their habitats.



The stages of successfully creating pollinator habitats:

Stage 1: Site Selection (growing zone, habitat size, patches vs. plots, drainage and available sunlight)

Stage 2: Plant Selection (neighbouring vs. selective, seeds vs. pre-grown plants)

Stage 3: Site Preparation

Stage 4: Planting and Seeding (appropriate seeding & planting conditions and techniques)

Stage 5: Monitoring and Future Maintenance (short term and long term)

Garden Design Considerations:

Site Preparation

The site should be located in an area with:

- Proper water drainage
- South facing slope to maximize sun exposure.
Pollinators like sunny conditions!
- Limited wind exposure to keep pollinators protected
- No pesticides or herbicides applied

Planting Preparation

- Choose pollinator friendly flowers/trees
- Plant vegetation that pollinators can use at all life stages.
Example: host plants for eggs & plants for adults requiring nectar.
- Has a variety of bloom times from spring to autumn
- Consider planting different colours, heights, and patterns

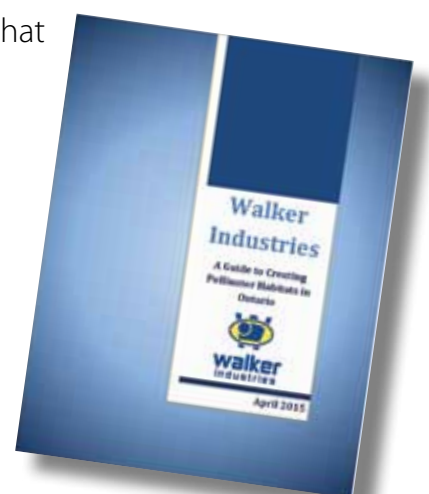
Strive FOR Wise

DID YOU KNOW?

- The decline of pollinators is particularly evident in North America, where sensitive pollinator species such as the Monarch butterfly and European honey bee are showing evidence of localized extinction.
- A *Guide to Creating Pollinator Habitats in Ontario* is available on the EARTH 1st Intranet page that provides an overview of the five stages necessary to create successful pollinator habitats.
<http://walkerhome/earth1st/EARTH%201st%20Library/Forms/AllItems.aspx>
- Every region is different when it comes to what you should plant to help local pollination. Please research what will work the best for your location.



We are the environment!
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All your questions and discussion topics are on the reverse side - get talking!

Creating Pollinator Habitats

Company _____ Date _____ Delivered by _____

Other topics discussed _____

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QUESTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

RECORD RESPONSES SPECIFIC TO YOUR SITE

- Where could you construct a pollinator garden at work or at home? _____

- What are the benefits to establishing pollinator habitats? You can use the *Guide to Creating Pollinator Habitats in Ontario* as a reference.

- In what ways could you raise pollinator awareness with your friends, family and coworkers? _____

Earth Day 2016

We want to know what you are doing this year to celebrate Earth Day! Earth Day is on April 22 and we are challenging employees to participate again this year at work and at home.

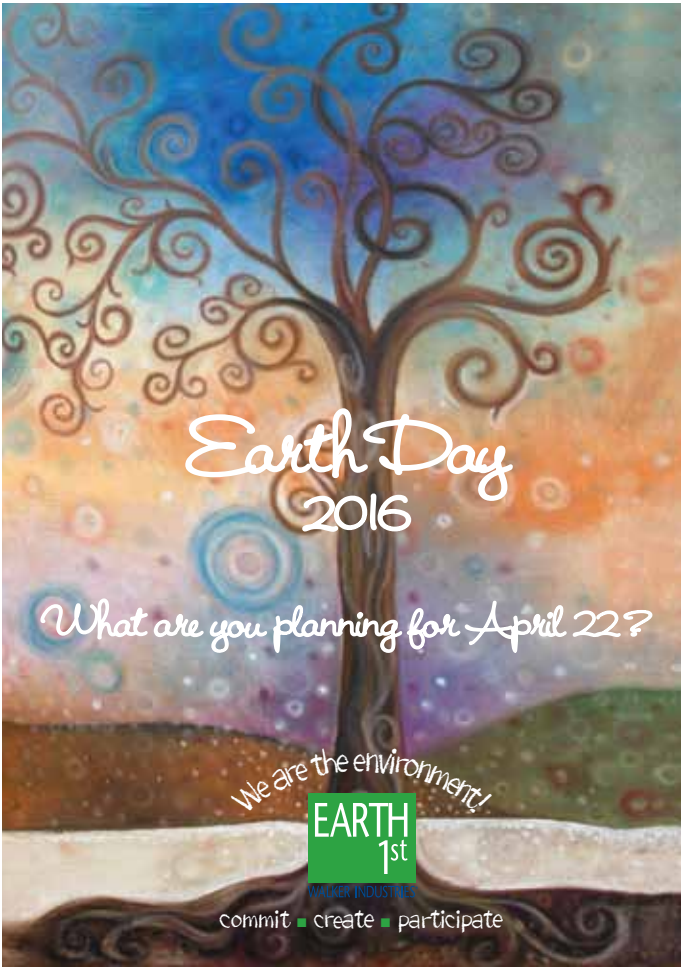
Last year we saw a great level of participation and enthusiasm from everyone. Some activities included:

- Litter cleanups
- Lights off campaigns
- School presentations
- Turning heat down in offices
- Electricity-Free/Litterless lunches
- Lunch and Learn workshop on Pollinator Health

We want to hear from you! Send Jamie Mereweather your ideas, pictures and videos for posting to the EARTH 1st blog. For more information on Earth Day please visit: www.earthday.ca



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YOU ARE WONDERFUL!! CONGRATULATIONS!
Clearly no group can, as an entity, create ideas. Only individuals can do this. A group of individuals may, however, stimulate one another in the creation of ideas. Estill J. Green