



# Guide to Exceptional Tennessee Pollinator Plants



Pollination is a natural and free ecosystem service carried out by specialized insects and animals that enables plant reproduction. This critical life sustaining service occurs as a byproduct of bees, birds, butterflies, bats, and other fauna visiting flowering plants to obtain nectar and pollen. Because most pollinators are generalists, visiting a wide variety of species, it can be difficult to value one plant over another. Simply put, if you plant it, they will come! For some specific pollinators however, it is possible to identify plants that are especially critical to their survival. Below are four exceptional Tennessee pollinators and a selection of long-flowering plants they are often associated with.

## POLLINATOR

HOST PLANT/ EARLY BLOOMING SPECIES

EARLY BLOOMING SPECIES

SUMMER BLOOMING SPECIES

LATE BLOOMING SPECIES



Danus plexippus  
Monarch Butterfly



Asclepias spp.  
Milkweed



Monarda spp.  
Beebalm



Liatris spp.  
Blazingstar



Symphotrichum spp.  
Aster



Speyeria cybele  
Spangled Fritillary



Viola spp.  
Violet



Echinacea spp.  
Coneflower



Asclepias spp.  
Milkweed



Vernonia spp.  
Ironweed



Bombus spp.  
Bumble Bee



Geranium spp.  
Geranium



Penstemon spp.  
Beardtongue



Pycnanthemum spp.  
Mountainmint



Solidago spp.  
Goldenrod



Archilochus colubris  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird



Aquilegia spp.  
Columbine



Silene spp.  
Fire pink



Physostegia spp.  
Obedient plant



Lobelia spp.  
Lobelia