

Questions:

1. Who can be considered a pollinator?

pollination — the transfer of pollen grains to fertilize the seed-producing ovaries of flowers. It is central to successful reproduction in most plants. Some plants are self-pollinated or wind-pollinated, but most depend on pollinators- to transport the pollen for them.

Bees, both managed honeybees and native bees, are the primary pollinators.

However, more than 100,000 invertebrate species, including bees, moths, butterflies, beetles, ants, mosquitoes, and flies serve as pollinators —as well as 1,035 species of vertebrates, including birds, mammals, and reptiles. The services provided by native pollinators further contribute to the productivity of crops as well as to the survival and reproduction of many native plants.

2. Where can we find pollinators?

Habitats of pollinators can be found in tree trunks, on tree branches, on leaves, attached to wooden buildings in a shady spot, in water, underground and more.

Since there are so many kinds of pollinators their habitat can be anywhere.

When they are active you will find them by the flowers of plants mostly.

3. What attracts pollinators?

The coevolution of pollinators and the pollination process is one of nature's unique solutions to the dilemma of sexual reproduction among stationary plant organisms. Plants have developed scents, vibrant colors, and shapes that make them attractive to pollinators who, in turn, have developed physical characteristics that allow them to gather and transport pollen as they seek food.

4. When are pollinators active?

When it is warm outside, they will be hiding or taking care of themselves when it is raining and cold outside.

5. Why care about pollinators?

Pollination is an essential part of a healthy ecosystem, maintaining its balance.

Pollinators play a significant role in the production of over 150 food crops in the United States alone— among them apples, alfalfa, almonds, blueberries, cranberries, kiwis, melons, pears, plums, and squash.

Native pollinators population is decreasing. There is a disturbing notion of an imbalance in the natural ecosystem and biodiversity on which all food production depends. Habitat loss for pollinators by human activity poses an immediate and frequently irreversible threat. Other factors responsible for population decreases include invasive plant species, broad-spectrum pesticide use, disease, and weather.

6. How can we help pollinators?

- ✓ Educating yourself about the importance of pollinators
- ✓ Creating or protecting an existing habitat for them in a safe location
- ✓ Planting wildflowers
- ✓ Making bird feeders, and keep them full

Fun facts:

- ❖ In 2016, the USDA estimates annual consumption of nearly one pound of honey per person.
- ❖ The "Bee Movie" (2007) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VONRQMx78YI> describes the importance of pollinators in a child friendly and comical way.

Resources:

1. "Nature's Partners Pollinators, Plants and You", A comprehensive pollinator curriculum for grades 3-6, 2007, Pollinator Partnership
2. <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/sweet-news-for-honey-as-consumption-rising-in-united-states-300292895.html>