

Plants for Pollinators



in the Classroom!

A Project of the Mercer County Soil Conservation District
and the Assunpink Environmental Institute

2010 Application Form

Thank you for your interest in the *Plants for Pollinators* program!
(open to schools in Mercer County)

Teacher's Name _____

School Name _____ Grade Taught _____

School Address _____

Daytime Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Why would you like to receive this resource kit, and how would you use it?

Complete this form and return no later than January 29, 2010 to:

Mercer County Soil Conservation District
508 Hughes Drive, Hamilton Square NJ 08690

Questions? Heather McNeil-Nazareth: heather1mercer@aol.com

Ph: (609) 586-9603 Fax: (609) 586-1117

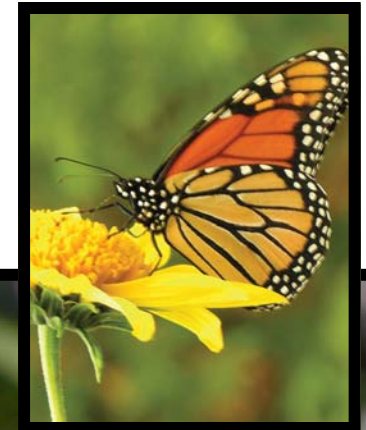
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Apply for free science materials, butterfly plants
and resources to help native pollinators.



*Learning about native plants
and native pollinators
in the classroom and beyond.*

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*“They were so excited each day
to come in and check the plants. They
have all taken turns watering them.
Some of the children had never
planted seeds before.”*

- 5th grade teacher, Cadwalader School

Pollinators play a significant role in the production of over 150 food crops in the United States — among them apples, alfalfa, almonds, blueberries, cranberries, kiwis, melons, pears, plums, and squash¹. An estimated 90 percent of flowering plants depend on bees and other insects as well as birds and bats for pollination. Pollinators are critical to the production of most major food crops around the world and in New Jersey, and they are virtually impossible to replace².

The Mercer County Soil Conservation District and Assunpink Environmental Institute developed the ***Plants for Pollinators in the Classroom*** to help students in Mercer County discover the importance of native pollinators and study the relationship between plants and pollinators. Teachers and students will use the indoor growing kit (complete with plant stand, grow bulbs, potting soil and seeds) to explore plant growth, conduct experiments and raise butterfly plants. The program provides resources to help students learn about native pollinators and how to create a pollinator garden at their own school. Student-raised plants may be planted in the school's new pollinator garden or in the Girl Scout Butterfly Garden at the Assunpink Environmental Institute. Participating classrooms also receive a small selection of ready-to-plant butterfly plants to enhance the school's new garden.

This program is open to schools in Mercer County. Please use the registration form on the back of this brochure to apply for a FREE resource kit while supplies last! For schools in Middlesex or Monmouth Counties, contact the Freehold Soil Conservation District at (732) 683-8500.

1 - North American Pollinator Protection Campaign <http://www.nappc.org/curriculum/intro.php>

2 - Protecting Nature in Your Community. American Museum of Natural History, May 2007. http://cbc.amnh.org/center/pubs/pdfs/protecting_nature.pdf

Program Deadlines and Details:

Applications must be received by January 29, 2010. Teachers will be notified of their acceptance by mid-February 2010. Supplies are limited.

This program is free of charge. All program materials may be kept in the classroom provided that they will be put to good use for years to come. Teachers are encouraged to coordinate with fellow teachers and plan fall activities that will continue the butterfly and pollinator learning theme in your school.

Teachers must submit short status reports to let us know how the kit has been used, what highlights or challenges were encountered, how you incorporated the resource kit into your lesson plans, and how it helped to meet Core Curriculum Standards, where applicable. Status reports are requested by June 30 and September 30.

The resource kit will include:

- **Instructions** for maximizing use of the kit.
- **Plant Growing Kit:** A complete growing kit, including plant stand, wide spectrum lights, potting soil, trays, light timer, a temperature and humidity indicator, and seeds.
- **Seeds:** Seed packets for three varieties of butterfly plants, along with fact sheets for each plant.
- **Butterfly Plants:** A small selection of potted butterfly plants ready to plant outdoors (such as Butterfly Milkweed, Blazing Star) along with fact sheets for each plant.
- **Lesson Plans:** Suggested lesson plans and activities (Teachers in the pilot program will be asked to provide copies of other lessons that they use).
- **Resources:** Various printed tip sheets and resource materials about pollinators and butterfly gardening. A list of valuable web resources about native pollinators, butterfly gardening, and starting seeds in the classroom.
- **Pollinators Poster:** A beautiful, full-color poster for the classroom
- **“Pollinator Wheel”** An interactive educational tool
- **“New Jersey Butterflies and Moths”** Pocket ID Guide