

Plants for Pollinators



in the Classroom!

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

For more information, visit:
www.mercerscd.org/education/pollinators.htm



Your Plants for Pollinators resource kit will include:

- **Instructions** for maximizing use of the kit.
- **Plant Growing Kit:** A complete growing kit, including a 2-tiered plant stand, wide spectrum lights, trays, light timer, temperature and humidity indicator, potting soil, 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.
- **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.
- **Pollinator Poster:** A beautiful, full-color poster for the classroom
- **“New Jersey Butterflies and Moths”** Pocket ID Guide

fold

Did you know?

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. Many crops rely heavily upon the familiar **European honeybee**; but with honeybees facing serious declines in recent years, research has shown that in some landscapes (including New Jersey farms and backyards) there are also many types of **native bees** at work. While most native bees rarely sting, they do contribute to pollination of food crops and native flowering plants. Most native bees nest in the ground, not in hives.

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

Plants for Pollinators



in the Classroom!

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

2014 Details and Application Form

Schools and youth groups apply to receive **free** science materials, butterfly plants, and resources to help create native pollinator habitat.

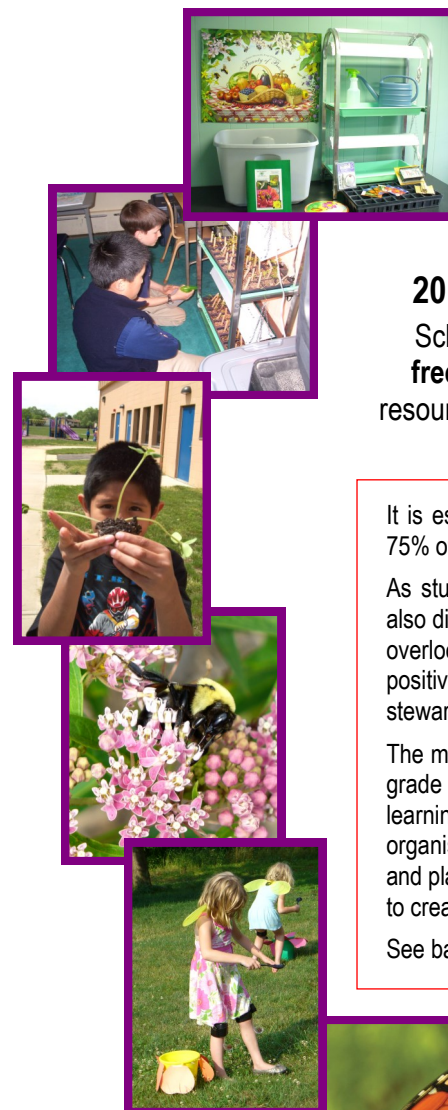
Deadline: Jan. 31, 2014

It is estimated that 90% of flowering plants, and up to 75% of food crops worldwide, require animal pollination.

As students explore plant-pollinator relationships, they also discover our human dependence upon these often-overlooked animals. They learn that we can have a positive impact on our natural resources by practicing stewardship and conservation.

The materials in this kit can be used by teachers at any grade level to enhance experiential and inquiry-based learning. Whether studying plant growth and living organisms, discovering native pollinators, or designing and planting a pollinator garden... students will be eager to create a pollinator-friendly classroom!

See back page for a list of kit contents.



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



“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

2014 Application Form - Plants for Pollinators in the Classroom (PPIC)

Open to schools in Mercer County.
Teachers in Middlesex or Monmouth Co. should
contact the Freehold SCD at 732-683-8500.

Program Deadlines and Details:

Applications must be received by January 31, 2014. Teachers will be notified of their acceptance by mid-February 2014. Supplies are limited.

All teachers are encouraged to apply for a PPIC kit regardless of previous gardening experience. There is an expectation that seeds started indoors will be transplanted outdoors whenever feasible. Please note that the PPIC kit also includes a small selection of potted butterfly-attracting plants that are provided after the spring frost-free date.

This program is free of charge, and materials remain with the classroom for years to come. The PPIC program was created by the Mercer County Soil Conservation District, and it is made possible with support from several community partners.

Teachers must submit short status reports to let us know how the kit was used, what highlights or challenges you encountered, and/or how it helped to meet State Standards, where applicable. Status reports are requested by June 30 and September 30.

Teacher's Name _____

School Name _____ Grade Taught _____

School Address _____

Daytime Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

- 1) Describe why you wish to receive this free resource kit, and how you would use it to enhance instruction (attach extra sheet if needed).

- 2) Would you like to be paired with a "Garden Pal" mentor/volunteer from the Master Gardeners of Mercer County? Yes___ No___ Not Sure___

- 3) Does your school currently have a school garden of any kind? Yes___ No___
Please explain:

(A Note for Planning Purposes: Gardens created with plants from this program may be small, such as a container garden, or they may serve as an addition to an existing well-developed school garden. Have you already identified an area for planting? Have you considered factors such as maintenance, ease of access, and support from your administration and grounds crew?)

- 4) How do you anticipate using the seedlings grown by your students?

Please check all that apply:

- ☐ We plan to start small (e.g., container gardens or raised beds).
☐ We will enhance an existing school-wide garden.
☐ We hope to use this project as a first step toward a school-wide garden.
☐ We would like help to identify an *off-site* location to plant our seedlings.
☐ We do not anticipate transplanting any seedlings outdoors.
☐ Other. Please explain:

Return this form no later than January 31, 2014 to:

Mercer County Soil Conservation District, 508 Hughes Drive, Hamilton Square, NJ 08690
Ph: (609) 586-9603 Fax: (609) 586-1117 **Questions?** Email to: heather1mercer@aol.com