

# Planning a Pollinator Garden



## Materials

- Paper
- Pencil
- Calculator
- Internet for research

## Making Decisions

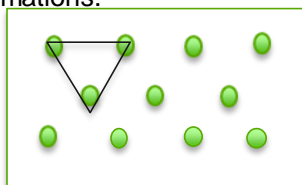
1. The first thing to think about when deciding you want to make a pollinator garden is a budget. Talk to your financier about how much money you want to put towards your garden. Plants and materials to create the garden can add up very quickly so creating a budget first is extremely important.
2. Decide what the purpose of your garden is. What are you wanting to use your pollinator garden for? Are you trying to invite bees and butterflies to your garden or are you wanting birds? This is an important decision to make because each plant will attract a different species. I personally like to use garden books, magazines, or the internet to gain inspiration for my garden.
3. Next on your list should be deciding where you garden will go and how big it will be. Do you have room for a large garden or is your garden going to be in a flower pot on your deck?
4. Once you have made these three important decisions, it's time to do some research!

## Research

1. Use the internet and do research on the different types of local pollinators. To find what kind of pollinators we have in Kansas you can use this link to help you! <https://www.pollinator.org/pollinator-prairie>
2. Now that you've decided which pollinators you want to attract, you have to research which types of plants they like and the requirements for those plants. Using the website listed in step 1, you can find which plants are best for each pollinator. You can also use this link from Dyck Arboretum to research native plants. <https://dyckarboretum.org/native-plants/#!/all>
3. Next you need to use a calculator to determine how much square footage you are working with and how many plants can fit inside that space. You will want to space your plants about 12" apart in a flower bed. If you are using a flower pot, your spacing will be much smaller and you will space them about 3" apart. If you need help calculating square footage you can use this site <https://sciencing.com/calculate-square-feet-math-7840189.html>
4. Now that you've done your research we can start planning the garden!

## Garden Planning

1. The first steps in planning your garden are complete. You have made three important decisions about your garden and researched useful information to help your garden succeed and meet your goals.
2. Now it's time to put the whole idea together. Using a piece of paper and a pencil draw out your garden plot using a square (for a flower bed) or a circle (for a flower pot).
3. Since you have done your research, you should have decided on which plants you are interested in planting in your garden. A design rule that should always be used is to design in odd numbers. What this means is that if I have chosen a lily that I like, I should plant either 1 large one as a centerpiece or (more likely) plant 3, 5, or 7 to support the overall flow of the garden. You will want to design your garden bed so that the plants are spaced in triangle formations.



4. Using an X or any shape you would like, mark on your garden plot (square or circle) where you plan to place your plants. Drawing your plants in their places beforehand will make the planting process much quicker and easier.
5. Now that you have designed your pollinator garden it's time to plant! Watch the video at this link to learn how to plant your pollinator garden. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epgpuiFP30&t=97s>
6. Share your garden with the world!

If you are needing further help about pollinator gardens or landscape design, please follow the links below or contact your local extension office.

<https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF2925.pdf>

<https://www.johnson.k-state.edu/docs/lawn-and-garden/in-house-publications/garden-design/Landscaping%20with%20Native%20Plants.pdf>

Lauren Fick  
Horticulture Extension Agent  
lfick@k-state.edu  
785-628-9430

