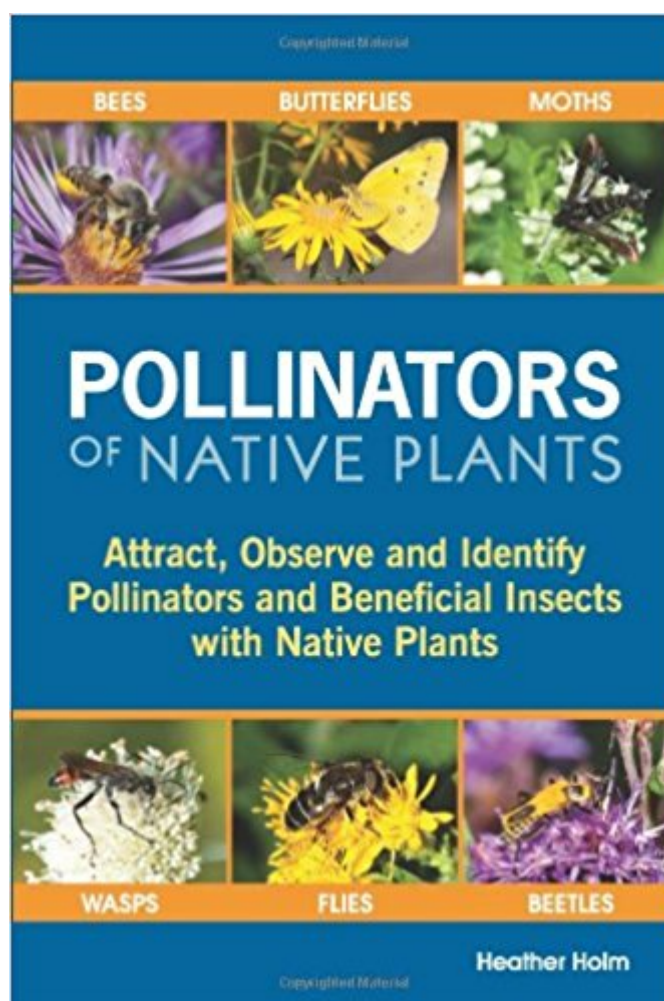


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# Pollinators Of Native Plants: Attract, Observe And Identify Pollinators And Beneficial Insects With Native Plants



## Synopsis

This is the first comprehensive book to illustrate the specific relationships between native pollinators and native plants. Organized by plant communities, the book profiles over 65 perennial native plants of the Midwest, Great Lakes region, Northeast and southern Canada and the pollinators, beneficial insects and flower visitors the plants attract. With its easy-to-use format, the book provides the reader with information on how to attract, plant for and identify pollinators with native plants. Beautifully designed and illustrated with over 1600 photos of plants and insects, the book includes information on pollination, types of pollinators and beneficial insects, pollinator habitat and conservation as well as pollinator landscape plans. This is an important book for gardeners, students, native plant enthusiasts, landscape restoration professionals, small fruit and vegetable growers and farmers who are interested in attracting, identifying, supporting or planting for pollinators.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Heather Holm has two passions: native plants and their pollinators, and she's combined these two loves into an incredibly informative and useful book that will help you choose the best plants for your wildlife garden to attract an abundance of native pollinators. She has effectively given us a botanical reference to native plants in conjunction with an entomological reference to native pollinators in one complete volume. ..."  
- Carole Sevilla Brown, [Ecosystem Gardening](#)  
Read the full review here:

ecosystemgardening.com/pollinators-of-native-plants-by-heather-holm.html"Everything about the book contributes to its ease of use, from the clean font to the color-coded tabs the top of each page. The information builds logically starting with explanations of the process of pollination and the structures of pollinators. There is a comprehensive chapter on conservation with practical advice on aiding pollinators in urban, suburban, agricultural and natural settings, including checklists for beneficial and harmful practices..." - Suzanne Dingwell, Author of Clean Green Natives blog. Full review: [vnps.org/wp/book-review-pollinators-of-native-plants-by-heather-holm/](http://vnps.org/wp/book-review-pollinators-of-native-plants-by-heather-holm/)"I am glad Heather Holm "slowed down" to observe the delicate relationships between native plants, pollinators and other beneficial insects. This book will inspire us to do the same, to experience the moment, with other living beings. This book is a wonderful tool to help us create, support and value these essential interactions in our gardens, communities, and region. I will refer to this guide book often." - Erik James Olsen, Landscape Designer, Out Back Nursery & Landscaping, Hastings, MN" This book, Pollinators of Native Plants by Heather Holm, could not have come at a better time. The book provides much needed information on understanding the key concepts of pollination and a thorough overview of native insect pollinators. One reason that I really like this book is that it addresses all types of native insect pollinators: bees, butterflies, moths, wasps, flies and beetles..." - Ellen Honeycutt, Author of Using Georgia Native Plants blog. Read the full review here: [usinggeorgianativeplants.blogspot.com/2014/02/pollinators-of-native-plants-book.html](http://usinggeorgianativeplants.blogspot.com/2014/02/pollinators-of-native-plants-book.html)"What I find truly unique about this book is that the author recognizes that a garden is an ecosystem. The gardener is a steward who works best when he or she understands how nature is working." Full review: [bugeric.blogspot.com/2014/02/review-pollinators-of-native-plants.html](http://bugeric.blogspot.com/2014/02/review-pollinators-of-native-plants.html) - Eric R. Eaton, Co-author of the Kaufman Field Guide to Insects of North America and author of the Bug Eric blog.

"If you are a person that lingers at flowers and gets close enough to marvel at all the bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, wasps, and flies that visit flowers for food, you will love this book. Heather Holm has compiled a gorgeous and super-informative guide to the pollinating insects that visit native prairie, woodland and wetland flowering plants. At last, a book that tells us the whole picture: the bloom time, range, habitat, and characteristics of flowers that attract pollinators, and the life-histories and fascinating traits of the many beneficial insects that pollinate the flowers. As I sit here on this cold winter day admiring the beautiful photos, I am filled with hope that our bees and

pollinators will abound next summer and evermore."- Marla Spivak, Professor, University of Minnesota

She simply thought of everything -- there's even a chart of bee tongue lengths! Where else can you find something like that? (In light of how comprehensive the book is, I'll just touch on a few of my favorite chapters.) Chapter 4 covers prairie plants and the insects that interact with them, chapter 5 covers woodland edge plants, and chapter 6 covers wetland edge plants. Each plant gets between 2 and 4 pages. The first page gives a description, cultural information, and a brief list of complementary plants. The next 1-3 pages is devoted to insect interaction with the plant; not just pollinators of the plant, but insects that may prey on the pollinators, along with the various insects that may consume the foliage, flower buds, etc. Another chapter lays out garden plans for various situations: woodland edge, boulevard, rain garden, even plans to attract specific bees! I plan on having every plant she recommends for mason bees in my yard this year. (Last year I didn't see hardly any bees, and later, I didn't get very many berries on my blueberry bushes.) This chapter would also be really helpful to the garden design challenged. :) This book should be read by every science teacher, be on every landscaper's and nurseryman's desk, and on every gardener's bookshelf. If it were, the bees and butterflies would soon be everywhere again!

Although I always hesitate to cast judgment on a book before I have completely read it, I have begun to realize that I will be long-savoring this new (2014) reference/ field guide, *Pollinators of Native Plants (Attract, Observe and Identify Pollinators and Beneficial Insects with Native Plants)*, written by Heather Holm. Let me first say that this book is principally aimed at the layman, "citizen-scientist" market. Ms. Holm has done a delightful job of delivering the required scientific information without resorting to esoteric technical jargon. The writing is substantive, but yet retains a delightfully entertaining and engaging demeanor. Heather Holm unabashedly admits that her effort was inspired by those of both Douglas Tallamy's book, *Bringing Nature Home* and the Xerces Society's book, *Attracting Native Pollinators*. Holm's new book takes these previous efforts and expands nicely upon them, extending upon the specific (sometimes obligate) interactions of both native plants and insects. The book artfully manages to present a rather comprehensive overview while still remaining comprehensible -- not an easy feat. The author's personal engagement with her subject matter is pleasingly obvious. The personal insight she imbues into her prose and copious photos can only be gleaned from

“been there” experience. The profuse personal insights are helpful gems of knowledge that just are not found in books that is until now. Additionally, her background research is also quantifiably apparent. For example: she quotes from *Nature's Garden*, a book written in 1900 by Neltje Blanchan, an author known for her synthesis of scientific interest with poetic phrasing. Personally, I have spent hours (perhaps too many) of summer joy viewing the struggles of bumblebees gathering pollen from Wild White Baptisia (*Baptisia alba*). The quote that Holm chose to cite from *Nature's Garden* deals with the similarly-closed, somewhat difficult to pollinate blossoms of White Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*). Although but a simple anecdote, I feel this type of “minor” descriptive information adds an immense amount of both clarity and the too-oft-missing joy in scientific reading material. \*\*\*\*\* “It requires something of a struggle for even so strong and vigorous an insect as the bumblebee to gain admission to this inhospitable-looking flower before maturity; and even he abandons the attempt over and over again in its earliest stage before the little heart-shaped anthers are prepared to dust him over. As they mature, it opens slightly, but his weight alone is insufficient to bend down the stiff, yet elastic, lower lip. Energetic prying admits first his head, then he squeezes his body through, brushing past the stamens as he finally disappears inside. At the moment when he is forcing his way in, causing the lower lip to spring up and down, the eyeless turtle seems to chew and chew until the most sedate beholder must smile at the paradoxical show. Of course it is the bee that is feeding, though the flower would seem to be masticating the bee with its keenest relish! The counterfeit tortoise soon disgorges its lively mouthful, however, and away flies the bee, carrying pollen on his velvety back to rub on the stigma of an older flower.” \*\*\*\*\* I am impressed with the amount of information presented in this 306 page book. It is simply chocked full of solid, descriptive information of both native plants and their most likely six-legged visitors. The format has a lot to do with maintaining a concise, intelligent presentation of the copious material. Particularly amazing is how she can sometimes include up to ten, well-cropped photos on a page without it seeming a jumbled mess. That is due to the superb organization, formatting and logical layout of the material, which frequently provides cross referencing to another page to both avoid redundancy and provide clarity. Coupled with *Bringing Nature Home* and *Attracting Native Pollinators*, the addition of Heather Holm’s *Pollinators of Native Plants* to one’s personal library seems like a perfect trifecta. Dan Mays Walcott, Iowa

This book gives a detailed view of how specific pollinators interact with selected native plants.

Although I would have liked to see a greater variety of plants in the profiles, it still gave me information I haven't seen elsewhere. It will help me identify the insects I'm beginning to see in my garden now that I've included more natives. The author also includes information on which insects use the plant as a host and suggestions on companion plants, which I will be using in planning this year's renovations.

I was excited when this book was announced so I quickly ordered when it became available and looked forward to its arrival. The book is very informative. It is easy for books to just have descriptions this book also has great pictures. It is exciting to read and learn. When reading this book I feel immersed in the world of native plants and their pollinators. Every home should have this book, especially if you are a gardener, healthy gardens are full of insects, this book will help you to see how great these animals are and all the benefits of native plants and their pollinators.

This is an excellent, outstanding resource to identify pollinators to your garden. This is an easy to read reference book with a wealth of information I'll use for years to come. The photos are detailed with extensive information about the native plants and the pollinators who visit them. A must read for anyone interested in learning about native plants and attracting pollinators to their garden. This book is a good investment. I have a butterfly garden filled with native host and nectar plants. It will be fun to photo and identify the many pollinators who visit, using this book. I highly recommend this book!

I'm in the process of converting my lawn to prairie and this book has been a real help understanding what the pollinators are actually interested in. Has the usual butterfly and bee info but also goes into more detail than I have found elsewhere on what plants are good for the beetles and true bugs. It makes a strong case for lots of Rattlesnake Master.....

This has been such a great book in introducing me to insects. I started planting native a few years ago, mainly to attract birds. Eventually seeing all the new insects on the natives, I was curious as to what they were. A lot of books on insects can be daunting, that was perfect to familiarize myself with the pollinators and other cool insects and learn more about native plants. For anyone interested in pollinators and/or native plants, this is a great book. My only wish is that it had more plants and insects!

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Pollinators of Native Plants: Attract, Observe and Identify Pollinators and Beneficial Insects with

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