

# Native Plants Garden

Licking County Master Gardener Volunteers  
Learning Center for Gardening



This plot was designed to be an inviting garden of Ohio native or naturalized flowering plants that support native pollinators - particularly Ohio's native bees. Ohio is home to about 500 species of native bees. The "bee hotel" offers a variety of sizes of nesting cavities. It is oriented facing southeast to catch the morning sun and a roof and sides offer cover to protect the nesting cavities from the weather. Mud from the surrounding gardens provide bees with the "mortar" they need to seal the nesting cavity. 30% of Ohio's native bees are solitary bees and lay their eggs in cavities such as these, hollow stalks from dried flowers, and other natural cavities. The other 70% of native Ohio bees nest in the ground.

## WHAT GROWS HERE

- Feverfew
- Common milkweed
- Slender mountain mint
- Nodding onion
- Joe-Pye weed
- Wild bergamot
- Beardtongue
- Mountain mint
- Gray/Prairie coneflower
- Showy aster
- Culver's root
- Golden Alexander
- Sunflower Maximillian
- White pinnacle aster
- Canada goldenrod or Bluestem goldenrod
- Cardinal flower (lobelia blue and red)

## HOW WE GROW IT

This garden was designed for:

- Variety of color and plant height
- Blooms spring through fall
- Grouping the same plant to support bee behavior of visiting the same plant even when others are available
- Providing food and shelter for bees

2025 is the first year for this plot, so it may seem a little sparse. Most of the plants were moved to this plot from other locations. Milkweed and Cardinal Flower plants were started from seed this year. In years to come, the plants will fill the space more, and have greater amounts of flowers for native bees.

## Resources

More information about Ohio's native bees and how to support them:

<https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/ent-80>, <https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/ent-85>

More information about plants for pollinators: <https://u.osu.edu/plantbynumbers/>

More information on constructing your own bee hotel:

<https://extension.usu.edu/planthealth/factsheets/making-managing-wild-bee-hotels.pdf>

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/how-to-manage-a-successful-bee-hotel/what-is-a-bee-hotel>