



Photo: The Garden Club of the Back Bay

Create Your Own Earth Day 2020 Garden

Got even a square foot of outdoor space? Celebrate the 50th Earth Day by getting outdoors and planting a pollinator-friendly garden!



Why?

Pollinators (insects, birds or other animals that move pollen from one plant to another) are responsible for up to 30% of our food supply

Our native pollinator populations are threatened due to pesticide use, habitat loss due to urbanization and suburbanization (lawns are not habitat for pollinators), and climate change.

It's fun and easy for kids to help plant and maintain your garden!

Fun fact: Native bees are solitary, ground-dwelling, and do not sting! Don't be afraid to attract them to your garden! [You're Worrying About the Wrong Bees](#)



How?

Choose a spot with full or partial sun. Consider replacing a grassy area of your lawn with perennial plants that will become a haven for weary pollinators.

Contact your favorite local nursery and ask what they have available in pollinator-friendly (ideally native plants, but it's not necessary) transplants. Fairfield's nurseries are up and running, doing easy over-the-phone orders with easy, contact-less pickups. They'll have options at different price points, and will be able to advise you on planting them.



Melanie Fox, perennials manager of [Oliver Nurseries](#) suggests the following plants that they have in stock this Earth Week (more pollinator-friendly perennials will come later in the season): at lower price points, they have bee balm and mountain mint, which are both deer-resistant, and at higher price points they have compact blueberries and [black chokecherry](#) as well as highbush and lowbush blueberries. Call Oliver Nurseries at **203-259-5609** for advice and to arrange an easy pickup.

Here are some other local nurseries that will be able to provide advice and plants for your pollinator garden:



203-658-7475



203-333-5662



Or create your pollinator garden while supporting [Wilton High School's Organic Garden Club!](#) They are selling native plant plugs for just \$2.50 apiece, in partnership with [Planter's Choice Nursery](#) in Newtown.

Orders must be submitted by 11:50pm on Fri May 1, and pickup will be Sat May 16 between 9am and 3pm at The

Hickories: A Local Organic Farm, 136 Lounsbury Road in Ridgefield, CT.

Order here: <https://whsorganicgarden.weebly.com/wildflowers-for-sale.html>



Let's put Fairfield's pollinator gardens on the map! Join us and put your pollinator garden on the [Pollinator Pathway!](#)

<https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/fairfield>



For much more information and tips on how to make your whole property more pollinator-friendly, visit [Mill River Wetland Committee's](#) Pollinator Pathway resource page:

<https://mrwc-fairfield.org/fairfield-pollinator-pathway/>