

MATCHING

MATCH THE POLLINATOR TO THE FLOWER



Bats are very important pollinators around the world, but especially in tropical and desert climates. Bats feed on the insects in the flowers as well as on the nectar and flower parts. Because bats are nocturnal, the flowers open up in the evening for them to pollinate. While most flower-visiting bats are found in Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Islands, we are still reliant on them. Over 300 species of fruit depend on bats for pollination. Bats pollinate fruits such as bananas, mango, and guava!



There are over 4,000 species of native bees! Bees you can see visiting your garden flowers might be the large, colorful, fuzzy, yellow-and-black striped bumblebees! There are also metallic-green sweat bees, squash bees, leaf-cutter bees, and the oh-so-famous imported honeybee. These flower-seeking pollen pursuers purposefully visit flowers to collect pollen and nectar for food. They, their hive, or their young depend on it. The types of flowers they like are varied.



Birds are very important pollinators! There are 2,000 bird species around the world that feed on nectar and the bugs associated with nectar giving flowers. In New York, the most popular pollinating bird is the hummingbird. The ruby-throated hummingbird is our native hummingbird. Hummingbirds are key in wildflower pollination. The flowers that are visited by hummingbirds are typically long and tubular. They have petals that are curved outwards, and are usually colorful.



Butterflies are very busy during the day. They have long thin legs, so they do not pick up pollen as successfully as bees, who have pollen pouches. They are busy probing for nectar, which they need for flight energy. They favor flowers that are flat and clustered. These flowers provide good landing pads for butterflies, and typically have a lot of nectar.

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