

Changes in land use across all continents have impacted the health of plant, animal, and insect species. Habitat loss and fragmentation have reduced species biodiversity and affected the health of our ecosystems.

A healthy and diverse landscape provides protection and food sources that support naturally occurring beneficial insects, which are critical to the food web, contributing to the survival of birds and other wildlife. All properties, large and small, have the potential to protect and support beneficial wildlife. Owners or managers of public and private properties can improve pollinator health by increasing the diversity of native plants in the landscape.

To use this assessment: select a site, or portion of a site, that you intend to dedicate to support pollinator services. This assessment can help you when designing a landscape or when evaluating the quality of an existing pollinator-friendly space, provide information to enable improvements, and communicate the value of pollinator habitat in your managed landscape. Any location of any size can have value for pollinators. Spend time observing how pollinators use the site and record what you observe. An assessment can be used to collect baseline data and evaluate how populations and species diversity expand, improve or change over time.

Date: _____ **Evaluator Name:** _____ **Name of Site:** _____

Town: _____ **County:** _____ **State:** _____

Is your site in an urban, rural, or suburban area?

Urban

Suburban

Rural

Estimated size of pollinator area:

<1 acre

1 - 2 acres

3 - 5 acres

> 5 acres

Who are you completing this assessment for?

Myself

My organization

My school or town

Other:

Which habitat type best describes the site:

Wetland

Wooded

Meadow

Yard

Landscaped beds

Do you have an area(s) designated to support pollinator health?

Yes

No

I don't know

Plant Selection in Your Landscape

Best Management Practices: A variety of different types of plants have value, including perennials, annuals, trees, shrubs, and turfgrasses. Select flowers with a variety of colors, shapes, sizes, heights, and growth habits to attract pollinators. Choose plants with a wide range of flowering times to extend the forage season and improve the attractiveness of the planting. Find more plant selection information in the [UConn Native Plant and Sustainable Landscape Guide](#).

Have you considered species biodiversity in your planting?

Yes (5 points)

No (0 points)

I don't know (0 points)

What characteristics of plant diversity have you incorporated into your landscape? (select all that apply):

Bloom shape (e.g., tubular, umbel) (2 pts)

Flower size (2 points)

Flower color (2 points)

Plant height (2 points)

Growth habit (tree, vine, etc.) (2 points)

What percentage of your landscape (including trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, and lawn) have you identified as native to your area? Find more information about native species in the [UConn Native Plant and Sustainable Landscape Guide](#).

76% or more of plants (10 points)

51-75% of plants (7.5 points)

26-50% of plants (5 points)

1-25% of plants (2 points)

I don't know (0 points)

During which seasons are flowering species available for pollinators? (select all that apply)

Spring (April - mid-June) (3 points)

Summer (Late June - August) (3 points)

Fall (September - November) (3 points)

Winter (December-March) (1 point)

I don't know (0 points)

What percent of plants in your landscape (trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, grasses), including native and non-native species, flower at some point during the growing season?

76% or more of landscaped area (10 points)

51-75% of landscaped area (7.5 points)

26-50% of landscaped area (5 points)

1-25% of landscaped area (2.5 points)

None present (0 points)

I don't know (0 points)

Pollinators are attracted to mass plantings of flowering plants. Have you incorporated mass plantings/floral clumps (e.g., five or more of a flowering plant species) in your landscape design or garden?

Yes (5 points)

No (0 points)

I don't know (0 points)

Many native plants are beneficial to caterpillars of moths and butterflies. For details, see [Life Histories of Connecticut Butterflies](#) and [The Connecticut Bumble Bee Guide](#). Milkweed plants are particularly important for monarch butterflies. Do you have milkweed plants in the landscape?

Yes (5 points)

No (0 points)

I don't know (0 points)

Subtotal:

Plant Selection and Invasive Plants in Your Landscape

Background Information: Invasive plants are species that are non-native, spread rapidly, crowd out native plants in natural plant communities, and damage our ecosystems. **Some invasive plants are commonly used as ornamental plants in a landscape setting** (e.g., barberry, burning bush, privet, Miscanthus, Norway maple, Amur maple, rugosa rose, bishop's weed, forget-me-not). **These plants take the space of beneficial native species and enable the spread of new invasions.** Find more information on the [CT Invasive Plant Working Group \(CIPWG\)](#) and [UConn IPM Invasives](#) websites.

Do you have any invasive species in your landscape **USED AS ORNAMENTALS** (i.e., intentionally planted, not weeds that have established on their own):

No (10 points)

Yes, less than 10% of landscape plants present (2 points)

Yes, more than 10% of landscape plants present (0 points)

I don't know (0 points)

Habitat

Are habitat resources other than flowering plants available for pollinators? Select all resources that are present in your landscape:

Trees and shrubs for nesting (2 points)

Clean, perennial water sources (2 points)

Installed habitat structures, such as bee and bat structures or bird nesting boxes (2 points)

Dead perennial/woody stems and grasses left uncut until spring to protect overwintering pollinators, or wood snags for cavity nesting insects (2 points)

Undisturbed patches of leaf litter and/or brush available through the year for ground nesting insects (2 points)

Pesticide Use

Are pesticides (e.g. pre-emergent herbicide, Bt for spongy moth) used to maintain the landscape? (Please choose only one):

No (5 points)

Yes, following Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles (i.e., with consideration of the impact on animals, insects, pollinators, and the environment, and following the instructions on the label) (2 pts)

Yes (0 points)

Is signage legible at forty or more feet away educating viewers of the pollinator benefits of the garden? (Bonus 5 points)

No (0 points)

Yes (5 points)

Subtotal:

Pollinator Presence

Optional: Indicate the pollinators you observe at the site. If you know the species present, list below.

Species present:

Bees:

Butterflies:

Birds:

Others:

Assessing Your Site

Tally up the subtotals for the page 2 and page 3:

Subtotal from page 2: _____

Subtotal from page 3: _____

Grand total (out of 80): _____

Would you like to increase your score? Consider how can you improve your pollinator site.

Find more information about native species in the [UConn Native Plant and Sustainable Landscape Guide](#). Learn about invasive species at the [CT Invasive Plant Working Group \(CIPWG\)](#) and [UConn IPM Invasives](#) websites. Find native plant vendors and sources at ipm.cahn.uconn.edu/pollinators.

Write your notes of what you would like to improve for your future planning:

References/Resources:

- 1 [Project Planning Assessment Form.pdf \(state.mn.us\)](#)
- 2 [Urban and Rural Pollinator and Ecological Health Assessments.docx \(live.com\)](#)
- 3 [Begin the Pollinator Habitat Assessment – Wisconsin Pollinators – UW–Madison](#)
- 4 [Credit Valley Conservation. 2017. Native Plants for Pollinators. cvc.ca/wp-content/uploads](#)

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