



Libraries Need Bees Too! Grant Reference Guide

Planting Guide for Your Pollinator Garden Box

Part of educating the community about the importance of pollinators begins with small things that we can all do to improve pollinator habitats in our own spaces. You will want to place the **Pollinator Garden Box** and accompanying sign in an outdoor area near the entrance to the building to catch the eye of your patrons.

Pollinators need year-round food! Plan to have at least one plant blooming during each season. Use the following [Ecoregional Guide](https://www.pollinator.org/guides) (<https://www.pollinator.org/guides>) for a list of native, seasonal plants for your area. Local plant nurseries can help you pick out just the right plant no matter what time of year. Nashville is part of the Eastern Broadleaf Forest Continental Province. Chapel Hill, Raleigh, and Durham are part of the Southeast Mixed Forest Region.

Soil is as important as your plants. We recommend choosing a high-quality potting mix for container gardens to provide all of the nutrients your plants will need. Again, your local plant nurseries can assist you in getting the proper soil.

Follow these steps to get started planting!

- The box can sit on the ground or be placed on a sturdy foundation to give it some height.
- The box is made of natural cypress wood. It can be stained for durability.
- The screen bottom and lining should be placed under the Pollinator Garden Box **before** you begin planting.
- Use cardboard or newspaper to fill the entire bottom of the Pollinator Garden Box in a single layer to keep the soil from running out when you water.
- Add soil to the box about halfway up the sides.
- Choose plants that will balance each other in height, need similar lighting, and can live in the same soil conditions.
- Read instructions for each plant you have chosen about depth for planting and soil conditions.
- Fill in with soil around the tops of your plants until the roots are covered.
- Keep your plants watered according to their needs.
- You may need to add new soil when you change seasons with new plants to give the plants proper nutrients.

Mason Bee House Maintenance

Mason Bees are incredible pollinators! They are native to North America and have evolved alongside our native plants. They will happily visit thousands of blooms in your garden and increase flower productivity in any community. They are slightly smaller than honey bees and stingless, which makes them a welcome addition to any garden.

When choosing a place to hang your Mason Bee House, consider a few details. They like for the house to be securely affixed rather than swinging. Attaching it to a fence, side of the building, or tree will keep the house from rocking in the wind. The native bees also like to be out of the rain so think about placing it under the edge of an existing roof or under the canopy of a tree.

Your Mason Bee House is designed to sustain up to two years of healthy lifecycles. At the end of that time, you should consider a maintenance plan to ensure that you are hosting healthy, happy bees. This process can take 30 minutes just a few hours total each year.

Check out the following sites to learn more about Mason Bee House Maintenance.

- [Mason Bee House Maintenance](https://blog.duncraft.com/2018/09/07/mason-bee-maintenance/) <https://blog.duncraft.com/2018/09/07/mason-bee-maintenance/>
- [How To Clean A Mason Bee House](https://beekeepclub.com/how-to-clean-a-mason-bee-house/) <https://beekeepclub.com/how-to-clean-a-mason-bee-house/>
- [Gardener's Supply Company](https://www.gardeners.com/buy/mason-bee-house/37-481.html) <https://www.gardeners.com/buy/mason-bee-house/37-481.html>

Suggestions for *Bee A Friend To Pollinators* Community Event

The *Bee A Friend To Pollinators* Lesson Plan will help guide you through the steps to access your community space and outline what pollinators need to thrive. Your community event could be with children or families depending on interest in your area. We've provided DIY Kits and Documents for a fun giveaway to selected participants. This would also be a great time to highlight the new literature that is available for check-out included in your grant box. Don't forget to take pictures and get quotes from your participants!

The *Bee A Friend To Pollinators* Lesson Plan is also available on our website at thebeecause.org in our Resources Menu. The companion YouTube video is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cxkeo7R74vs>. We also have a fun interactive digital game that can be played by two competing individuals or teams on Factile at <https://www.playfactile.com/kffuwvpy1y>.

Links to Lesson Plans for the Pollinator Literacy

The book titles in your grant box are some of our favorites! We've covered a wide variety of ages of interest, reading abilities, and genres with our Book Club Challenge Lessons. Please use these lessons as a resource for hosting a kid's book club, a summer reading program, or for read-aloud experiences in your branch. All of our educational resources are free, downloadable, printable, and shareable at [The Bee Cause Project](https://www.thebeecause.org/) (<https://www.thebeecause.org/>) as well as our [OER Commons Group](https://www.oercommons.org/groups/the-bee-cause-project/5505/) (<https://www.oercommons.org/groups/the-bee-cause-project/5505/>).

There are also a list of books from Whole Kids Foundation at [Pollinator Books for Young Readers](https://www.wholekidsfoundation.org/blog/dig-in-books-about-pollinators-and-pollination-for-young-readers) (<https://www.wholekidsfoundation.org/blog/dig-in-books-about-pollinators-and-pollination-for-young-readers>).

- [Flight of the Honey Bee](https://www.thebeecause.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/bee_cause_book_club_flight_of_the_honey_bee.pdf) by Raymond Huber
https://www.thebeecause.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/bee_cause_book_club_flight_of_the_honey_bee.pdf
- [The Bee Tree](https://www.thebeecause.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/bee_cause_book_club_the_bee_tree.pdf) by Patricia Polacco
https://www.thebeecause.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/bee_cause_book_club_the_bee_tree.pdf
- [What If There Were No Bees? A Book About the Grassland Ecosystem](https://www.thebeecause.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/bee_cause_book_club_what_if_there_were_no_bees.pdf) by Suzanne Slade
https://www.thebeecause.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/bee_cause_book_club_what_if_there_were_no_bees.pdf
- [The Thing About Bees: A Love Letter](https://www.thebeecause.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/bee_cause_book_club_the_thing_about_bees.pdf) by Shabazz Larkin
https://www.thebeecause.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/bee_cause_book_club_the_thing_about_bees.pdf
- [The Honey Makers](https://www.thebeecause.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/bee_cause_book_club_the_honey_makers.pdf) by Gail Gibbons
https://www.thebeecause.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/bee_cause_book_club_the_honey_makers.pdf
- [The Beeman](https://www.thebeecause.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/bee_cause_book_club_the_bee_man.pdf) by Laurie Krebs and Valeria Cis
https://www.thebeecause.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/bee_cause_book_club_the_bee_man.pdf
- [The World of Bees](https://www.thebeecause.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/bee_cause_book_club_the_world_of_bees.pdf) By Cristina Banfi
https://www.thebeecause.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/bee_cause_book_club_the_world_of_bees.pdf
- [Honeybees and Frenemies](https://www.thebeecause.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/bee_cause_book_club_honeybees_and_frenemies.pdf) by Krisi Wientge
https://www.thebeecause.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/bee_cause_book_club_honeybees_and_frenemies.pdf
- [Farmer Will Allen and The Growing Table](https://www.thebeecause.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/bee_cause_book_club_farmer_allen.pdf) by Jacqueline Briggs Martin
https://www.thebeecause.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/bee_cause_book_club_farmer_allen.pdf
- [Our School Garden](https://www.thebeecause.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/bee_cause_book_club_our_school_garden.pdf) by Rick Swann
https://www.thebeecause.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/bee_cause_book_club_our_school_garden.pdf