

## How to Plant a Pollinator Patch: A Step-By-Step Guide

### **1. Choose a location**

- Consider how the space is used, proximity to a water source and accessibility

### **2. Get permission if necessary**

- Who owns the land?
- Are there bylaws in place that govern its use?

### **3. Learn about your site**

- Soil
- Sun
- Moisture
- Current vegetation

### **4. Determine the design: size, shape and layout**

- Consider how much you can manage – remember you can always expand later!
- Do you want paths? Seating?
- Consider leaving some bare ground for nesting

### **5. Choose your plants**

- Consider whether species are native, natives, exotic or invasive
- Remember to check nurseries for availability and aim for local seed sources
- Decide on type of plant material: seeds? Plugs? Pots? A combination?
- Aim for a diversity of shapes, colours, bloom times and growth forms
- Create a planting plan

### **6. Site Prep**

- Weed and debris removal
- Weed suppression
- Construction of containers or beds
- Make sure you have all materials: newspaper, soil, mulch, etc.

### **8. Plant!**

- Plant and mulch according to your planting plan
- Water

### **9. MAINTAIN – most important in the first 2-3 years**

- Weed
- Water
- Interplant if necessary

### **10. Observe and Enjoy!**

- Visit your garden often to enjoy the fruits of your labour and observe nature in action
- What pollinators are visiting your site? Which plants do they seem to like the most?