

ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SUPPORTING LOCAL POLLINATORS AT HOME

A pollinator garden that is planted and designed with plants that produce nectar and pollen, attracting pollinating insects known as pollinators. In addition to supporting native birds and pollinators with shelter and food, native plants promote soil health by preventing soil erosion, while filtering carbon emissions from the air.

GET STARTED: PLAN OUT YOUR GARDEN

Pick a combination of native plants that provide bloom during the growing season (March - November) and food and shelter throughout the year.

- Depending on the garden size, planting several different species of native plants will attract a variety of pollinators to the garden.
- Planting 3-4 of the same plant variety together in a section creates “bundles” attracting more pollinators, providing adequate nectar harvest in addition to structure and continuity in the garden.

SITE PREPARATION: CLEARING OUT SPACE

Before planting, the garden site should be completely free of grass and weeds to prevent weeds from overshadowing and taking over the space. You have several options:

- **Sod removal:** Digging up the few top inches of grass and soil is ideal for smaller garden sites with little to no weeds. Plant seeds and plants directly into the soil after all the sod has been removed.
- **Solarization:** Cover full sun area during June-August with a tarp or woven landscape fabric and weigh down the area with pins, boards, or bricks to smother out the grass and weed seedlings. Remove the cover once sod has died (2-3 months). After dead sod is removed, plant seeds and plants directly into the soil.
- **Smothering:** Kill sod by covering area with overlapping cardboard and adding a 4-5" layer of dry leaves, grass clippings, and compost. Allow layers to compost for a full growing season before planting in.

PLANT SELECTION: MORE RESOURCES

- **Grow Native! Missouri Prairie Foundation:** <https://grownative.org>
- **Book:** Lawns Into Meadows, 2nd Edition: Growing a Regenerative Landscape by Owen Wormser