

February 14, 2023

Protecting the rights of property owners to grow native or natural habitats in their backyards, school yards and other community areas has many positive values. All cities should allow native plant landscaping. Every home should have a pollinator garden. It will help bring the entire family closer to nature.

Dr. Doug Tallamy, in several well written books, notes that the sum of the area of home lawns in the US is as large or larger than the sum of the area of our National Parks. Every home should be a pollinator oasis, helping to increase the amount of clean habitat that our bees, birds, and butterflies so desperately need.

Communities that restrict yards to lawns over pollinator gardens ignore a number of crises and values:

- the collapse of the populations of bees, birds, and butterflies,
- the positive effect of pollinator gardens in rainwater infiltration and carbon sequestration [bluegrass has a root depth of a couple of inches; while most perennial pollinator plants have roots one to over 16 feet, and
- pollinator plants left uncut over the winter provide aesthetic values not available to sod lawns.

Most of our property are native plants and we are visited by many insects and birds; if you plant native perennial plants, they will come.

Thank you,
Howard Markus
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