What's the Buzz About Pollinator Gardens?

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Tips for Starting Your Pollinator Garden!

- Most pollinator-friendly plants prefer sun for most of the day, so choose a location exposed to direct sunlight

- Choose a plot size that you are comfortable with and that won't overwhelm you
- You can always expand later

- Plants grow best in nutrient-rich, well-drained, weeded, and loosened soil
- Enrich soil with organic matter such as compost, leaves, straw, and hay

- Choose a variety of plants with overlapping and sequential bloom periods to provide food for pollinators throughout the season
- Plant mostly natives with select exotics that extend the flowering period

5. Garden blueprint

- Clump the same flower species together to attract more pollinators

Why are Pollinators Important?

- USDA estimates that pollination is worth $10 billion in the U.S.
- Animal pollination is required for 80% of crop plants
- Some bee species are endangered
- Why are pollinators in decline?
- Intensive agricultural practices
- Habitat Fragmentation and Degradation

The rusty patched bumble bee is an endangered pollinator found in Northeast Iowa.

What flowers can I plant?

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Native plant ideas for your Iowa garden!

Native flowers in Iowa except for the Zinnia, an exotic flower that extends the flowering period

Garden Checklist:

- ❑ Do your plant research!
- ❑ Plant a diversity of flowering plants
- ❑ Plant mostly natives
- ❑ Consider selecting exotic flowers that may extend the flowering period
- ❑ Avoid using pesticides

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