



10 Pollinator-attracting Plants



About Community in Bloom

Community in Bloom (CIB) is a programme that was launched by the National Parks Board (NParks) in 2005. It aims to nurture a gardening culture among Singaporeans by encouraging and facilitating community gardening efforts. It is also an opportunity to build community bonds and strengthen social resilience in our City in Nature.



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For more information, visit our website at www.nparks.gov.sg/cib or email us at CommunityInBloom@nparks.gov.sg

For more information on plants in Singapore, visit NParks Flora & Fauna Web at www.nparks.gov.sg/florafaunaweb

For more gardening resources and tips, visit go.gov.sg/gardening-resources

To learn more about our City in Nature, scan the QR code or visit www.nparks.gov.sg/about-us/city-in-nature



This brochure features 10 commonly cultivated pollinator-attracting plants found in community gardens in Singapore. This term generally refers to plants that attract pollinators like butterflies, bees and birds by providing food in the form of nectar, pollen or leaves.

There are numerous varieties of pollinator-attracting plants that can be grown in Singapore. We hope that this brochure will encourage you to try growing some in your home or community garden!



Types of Pollinator-attracting Plants

Nectaring plants have flowers that pollinators drink nectar from. Sunbirds, butterflies and bees all feed on nectar, and will seek out gardens with nectaring plants to feed on.

Host plants are those which an animal will feed and live on. Many caterpillars have specific host plants that they feed on, so by planting these host plants, you can help to boost the population of butterflies in your garden.

Types of Pollinators

Butterflies are attracted to flowers with bright colours and lots of nectar. Because butterflies all have a long, straw-like mouthpart called a proboscis, some plants have evolved long, tube-like flowers to attract them.

Caterpillars are the larval stage of butterflies. A caterpillar will undergo metamorphosis into a chrysalis before emerging as a butterfly. Many species of caterpillars are host-specific and will only feed on certain plants. For example, Lime Butterfly caterpillars will only feed on leaves from plants in the citrus family.

Bees are attracted to a much wider range of flowers than butterflies. Bees will harvest both nectar and pollen from flowers to make honey. Singapore has over 100 species of bees, which include honey bees, stingless bees, carpenter bees, and many more!

Sunbirds and flowerpeckers regularly visit flowers to feed on nectar. Like butterflies, these birds have a long tongue to drink nectar. As such, they are also attracted to long, tubular flowers with a lot of nectar. Small, fast and colourful, these birds are a joy to watch in the garden as they flit from flower to flower.



Pollinator-attracting Plants

Most pollinator-attracting plants grow colourful, fragrant flowers or are host plants for young pollinators (e.g. caterpillars). When you provide a consistent source of food, pollinators will be more likely to visit your garden, and by extension pollinate other plants you are growing.



Benefits of Growing Pollinator-attracting Plants

1. Increase fruit yield from edible crops
2. Provide habitats and forage plants for local biodiversity
3. Make your community garden more interesting by providing opportunities for wildlife-watching



Pollinators

Animals that transfer pollen from the male anther of a flower to a female stigma of a flower are pollinators. This process, called pollination, helps to bring about the fertilisation of flowers to produce fruit. Some common pollinators in Singapore include butterflies, bees and birds.



Blue

Snakeweed



Scientific Name
Stachytarpheta indica

A small shrub with numerous small purple-blue flowers, the Blue Snakeweed is very attractive to cloak-and-dagger bees (*Thyreus* spp.), blue-banded digger bees (*Amegilla* spp.) and small butterflies. It can be grown from seeds and is a good flowering border plant.



Candle

Bush



Scientific Name
Senna alata

A large bush with large vertical yellow inflorescences that resemble golden candlesticks, the Candle Bush is attractive to carpenter bees and large butterflies. It is the host plant for the Mottled Emigrant butterfly (*Catopsilia pyranthe pyranthe*), and Lemon Emigrant butterfly (*Catopsilia pomona pomona*). It is a good focal point for biodiversity gardens.



False

Heather



Scientific Name
Cuphea hyssopifolia

The False Heather is a low ornamental shrub with numerous small pink flowers. It is very attractive to bees and small butterflies and can be grown from stem cuttings. It makes a good groundcover or flowering border plant.



Golden

Dewdrop



Scientific Name
Duranta erecta

A low-maintenance flowering border plant that also does well in containers, the Golden Dewdrop is a small ornamental shrub with attractive purple flowers and round orange fruits. It is very attractive to bees and small butterflies, and can be grown from seeds or stem cuttings.



Coral

Vine



Scientific Name
Antigonon leptopus

This common ornamental vine with attractive pink flowers grows readily on a trellis and is very attractive to honey bees (*Apis* spp.), stingless bees (tribe Meliponini) and small butterflies. It can be grown from seeds or stem cuttings and is a good plant to grow on fences.



Javanese

Ixora



Scientific Name
Ixora javanica

A large ornamental shrub with clusters of tubular red flowers, the Javanese Ixora is very attractive to large and small butterflies. It is a host plant for the Knight butterfly (*Lebadea martha parkeri*) and a useful flowering border or hedge plant.



Scarlet

Spiral Flag



Scientific Name
Costus woodsonii

A large herbaceous shrub with prominent red cylindrical inflorescences, the Scarlet Spiral Flag is attractive to large butterflies and sunbirds. It can be grown from stem cuttings, or propagated via division or aerial plantlets. It is a useful flowering border plant in biodiversity gardens.



Torch

Ginger



Scientific Name
Etilingera elatior

The Torch Ginger is a herb with very prominent pink or red torch-shaped inflorescences. It is very attractive to sunbirds and can be grown from seeds or division. Immature flower buds are edible, while the mature flower head is used for cut flower arrangements. It is a good screening plant for biodiversity gardens or shaded edible gardens.



Turk's

Turban



Scientific Name
Malvaviscus arboreus

A large woody shrub with numerous attractive small red flowers, the Turk's Turban is very attractive to sunbirds. It can be grown from seeds or stem cuttings, and it can be used as a focal point in biodiversity gardens.

