

Butterflies

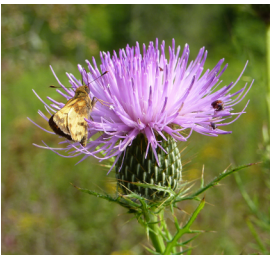
Butterflies pollinate different kinds of wildflowers during the day. They find brightly colored flowers that give them a place to land. These flowers can be large, or groups of small flowers. While butterflies drink nectar from the flowers, pollen collects on their bodies.

Some local flowers pollinated by butterflies include

cardinal flower



field thistle

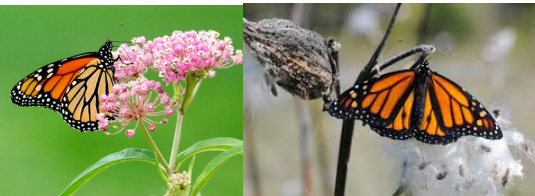


ninebark



golden alexander

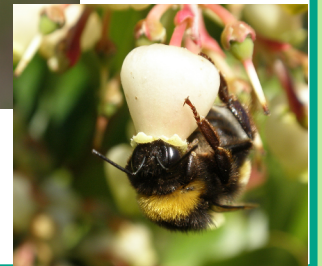
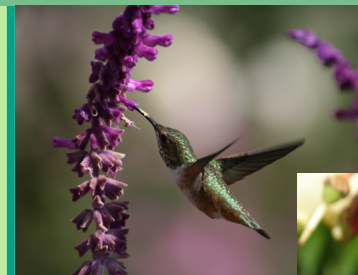
Monarch butterflies have a special relationship with milkweed plants. They lay their eggs on milkweed leaves, and milkweed plant is the only food monarch caterpillars eat.



Boston Local Pollinators



Butterflies, Hummingbirds, and Bees



Hummingbirds

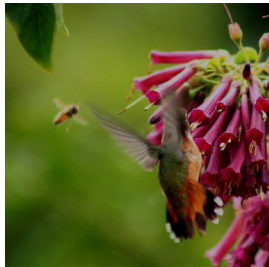
Hummingbirds pollinate different kinds of wildflowers. They find tube-shaped flowers with petals that curve out. Hummingbirds especially like red flowers.

Hummingbirds send their long, thin bills into the flowers to drink nectars. When they pull out their beaks, their heads and backs become covered in pollen.

Some local flowers pollinated by hummingbirds include



bee balm



honeysuckle



petunia



cardinal flower

Bees

Bees are important pollinators. They pollinate many flowers, looking for ones that smell sweet, are brightly colored, and are full of nectar.

While visiting a flower, bees drink nectar and collect pollen in their leg baskets to bring back to the babies in the hive. Pollen also gets stuck to their hairy bodies, which then drops off and pollinates other flowers.

Some local flowers pollinated by bees include



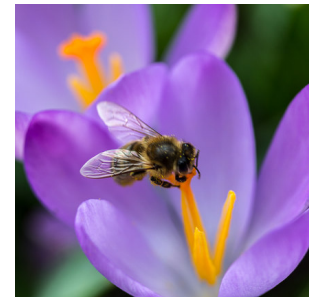
ninebark



field thistle



highbush blueberry



crocus

Yellow Lady's-slipper

The Yellow Lady's slipper is not full of nectar or anything else that a pollinator wants to eat. The flower is usually pollinated by small burrowing bees which slip or fall inside. The bees crawl into a tight corridor. Leaving the flower through the corridor, a sticky mass of pollen attaches itself to the bee's back.



Summer Squash

Summer squash flowers are unisexual, which means one squash flower is male and one is female. These flowers require a bee to move pollen from the male to the female flowers. Honey bees pollinate squash plants, but more often special "squash bees" do it.

