



Pollinators

What Pollinators Do For Us

- Pollinators are critical to our food production system
- More than 100 U.S.-grown crops rely on pollinators
- The Honey Bee is our primary pollinator



G. Ferry

Common Name: Western Honey Bee

Scientific Name: *Apis mellifera*

- Most common in Delaware
- Pollinate crops & produce honey
- Pollen basket attached to the hind leg



G. Ferry

**Common Name: Eastern Tiger Swallowtail;
Dense Blazing Star**

Scientific Name: *Papilio glaucus*; *Liatris spicata*

This native plant helps improve the ecosystem while also attracting native Lepidoptera pollinators.



Calibas, Wikimedia Commons

Common Name: American HoverFly

Scientific Name: *Eupeodes americanus*

- Diptera
- Native to North America
- Accidental pollinators



Brian Buckner, Jones Lab at Bowdoin

Other Native Pollinators:

- Mason bees, Leaf cutters, Cuckoo bees.

These pollinators all have different characteristics. For example, the Mason bee (Above, *Osmia lignaria*) is blue!



Pollinator, Wikimedia Commons

Common Name: Red Necked False Blister Beetle

Scientific Name: *Asclera ruficollis*

Some pollinators come from the order Coleoptera. This beetle has hardened elytra, which is a major characteristic of Coleoptera. They are frequently found on flowers, because that is where they mate, and pollen is a big part of their diet. Be careful dealing with them, because they do have toxic defense chemicals.

Ways to Promote Pollinator Activity

- Plant native species
- Avoid / limit pesticide use
- Provide water and shelter



Fig. 5: *Penstemon digitalis*

Fig. 6: *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*

Fig. 7: *Pycnanthemum incanum*