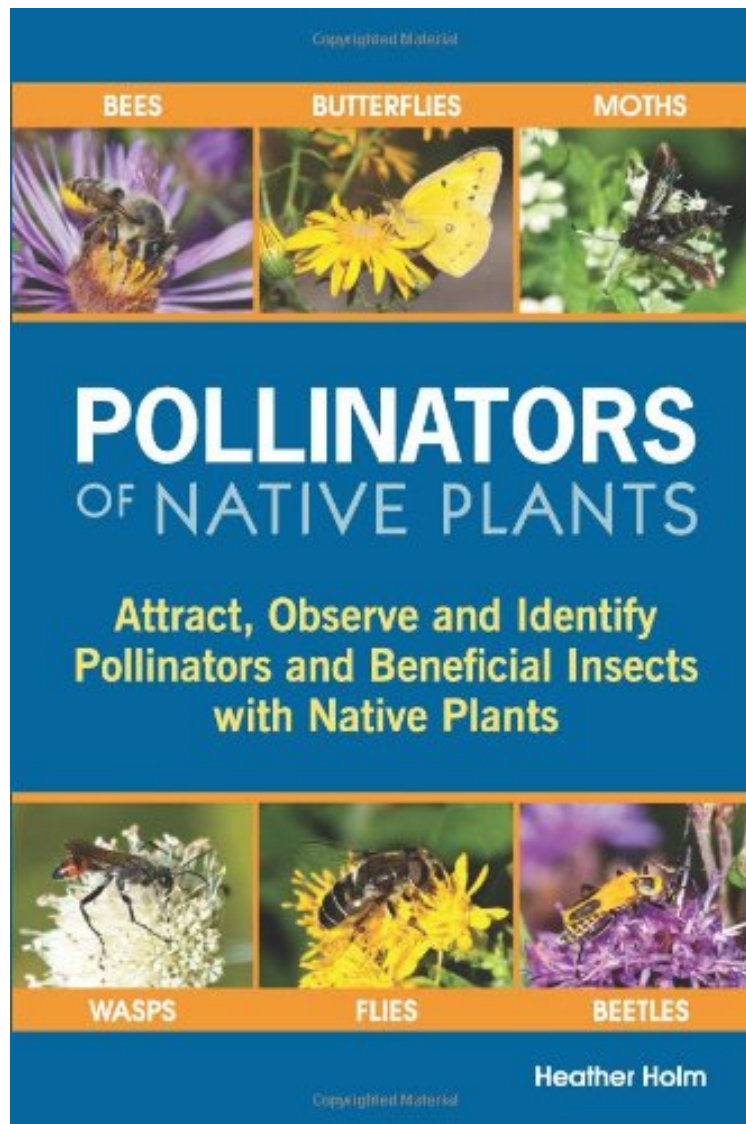


[Download pdf] Pollinators of Native Plants: Attract, Observe and Identify Pollinators and Beneficial Insects with Native Plants

Pollinators of Native Plants: Attract, Observe and Identify Pollinators and Beneficial Insects with Native Plants

Heather N. Holm

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Heather N. Holm : Pollinators of Native Plants: Attract, Observe and Identify Pollinators and Beneficial Insects with Native Plants before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pollinators of Native Plants: Attract, Observe and Identify Pollinators and Beneficial Insects with Native Plants:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. I can't say enough good things about this book.By TulipShe simply thought of everything -- there's even a chart of bee tongue lengths! Where else can you find something like that? (In

light of how comprehensive the book is, I'll just touch on a few of my favorite chapters.) Chapter 4 covers prairie plants and the insects that interact with them, chapter 5 covers woodland edge plants, and chapter 6 covers wetland edge plants. Each plant gets between 2 and 4 pages. The first page gives a description, cultural information, and a brief list of complementary plants. The next 1-3 pages is devoted to insect interaction with the plant; not just pollinators of the plant, but insects that may prey on the pollinators, along with the various insects that may consume the foliage, flower buds, etc. Another chapter lays out garden plans for various situations: woodland edge, boulevard, rain garden, even plans to attract specific bees! I plan on having every plant she recommends for mason bees in my yard this year. (Last year I didn't see hardly any bees, and later, I didn't get very many berries on my blueberry bushes.) This chapter would also be really helpful to the garden design challenged. :) This book should be read by every science teacher, be on every landscaper's and nurseryman's desk, and on every gardener's bookshelf. If it were, the bees and butterflies would soon be everywhere again!

29 of 32 people found the following review helpful. This completes the trifecta. By Dan Mays

Although I always hesitate to cast judgment on a book before I have completely read it, I have begun to realize that I will be long-savoring this new (2014) reference/ field guide, *Pollinators of Native Plants (Attract, Observe and Identify Pollinators and Beneficial Insects with Native Plants)*, written by Heather Holm. Let me first say that this book is principally aimed at the layman, citizen-scientist market. Ms. Holm has done a delightful job of delivering the required scientific information without resorting to esoteric technical jargon. The writing is substantive, but yet retains a delightfully entertaining and engaging demeanor. Heather Holm unabashedly admits that her effort was inspired by those of both Douglas Tallamy's book, *Bringing Nature Home* and the Xerces Society's book, *Attracting Native Pollinators*. Holm's new book takes these previous efforts and expands nicely upon them, extending upon the specific (sometimes obligate) interactions of both native plants and insects. The book artfully manages to present a rather comprehensive overview while still remaining comprehensible not an easy feat. The author's personal engagement with her subject matter is pleasingly obvious. The personal insight she imbues into her prose and copious photos can only be gleaned from her own experience. The profuse personal insights are helpful gems of knowledge that just are not found in books that is until now. Additionally, her background research is also quantifiably apparent. For example: she quotes from *Natures Garden*, a book written in 1900 by Neltje Blanchan, an author known for synthesis of scientific interest with poetic phrasing. Personally, I have spent hours (perhaps too many) of summer joy viewing the struggles of bumblebees gathering pollen from Wild White Baptisia (*Baptisia alba*). The quote that Holm chose to cite from *Natures Garden* deals with the similarly-closed, somewhat difficult to pollinate blossoms of White Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*). Although but a simple anecdote, I feel this type of minor descriptive information adds an immense amount of both clarity and the too-oft-missing joy in scientific reading material. ***** It requires something of a struggle for even so strong and vigorous an insect as the bumblebee to gain admission to this inhospitable-looking flower before maturity; and even he abandons the attempt over and over again in its earliest stage before the little heart-shaped anthers are prepared to dust him over. As they mature, it opens slightly, but his weight alone is insufficient to bend down the stiff, yet elastic, lower lip. Energetic prying admits first his head, then he squeezes his body through, brushing past the stamens as he finally disappears inside. At the moment when he is forcing his way in, causing the lower lip to spring up and down, the eyeless turtle seems to chew and chew until the most sedate beholder must smile at the paradoxical show. Of course it is the bee that is feeding, though the flower would seem to be masticating the bee with its keenest relish! The counterfeit tortoise soon disgorges its lively mouthful, however, and away flies the bee, carrying pollen on his velvety back to rub on the stigma of an older flower. ***** I am impressed with the amount of information presented in this 306 page book. It is simply chalked full of solid, descriptive information of both native plants and their most likely six-legged visitors. The format has a lot to do with maintaining a concise, intelligent presentation of the copious material. Particularly amazing is how she can sometimes include up to ten, well-cropped photos on a page without it seeming a jumbled mess. That is due to the superb organization, formatting and logical layout of the material, which frequently provides cross referencing to another page to both avoid redundancy and provide clarity. Coupled with *Bringing Nature Home* and *Attracting Native Pollinators*, the addition of Heather Holm's *Pollinators of Native Plants* to one's personal library seems like a perfect trifecta.

Dan Mays
Walcott, Iowa
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great resource for native plant fans
By Christine B. . This book gives a detailed view of how specific pollinators interact with selected native plants. Although I would have liked to see a greater variety of plants in the profiles, it still gave me information I haven't seen elsewhere. It will help me identify the insects I'm beginning to see in my garden now that I've included more natives. The author also includes information on which insects use the plant as a host and suggestions on companion plants, which I will be using in planning this year's renovations.

This is the first comprehensive book to illustrate the specific relationships between native pollinators and native plants. Organized by plant communities, the book profiles over 65 perennial native plants of the Midwest, Great Lakes region, Northeast and southern Canada and the pollinators, beneficial insects and flower visitors the plants attract. With its easy-to-use format, the book provides the reader with information on how to attract, plant for and identify pollinators with native plants. Beautifully designed and illustrated with over 1600 photos of plants and insects, the book includes

information on pollination, types of pollinators and beneficial insects, pollinator habitat and conservation as well as pollinator landscape plans. This is an important book for gardeners, students, native plant enthusiasts, landscape restoration professionals, small fruit and vegetable growers and farmers who are interested in attracting, identifying, supporting or planting for pollinators.

"Heather Holm has two passions: native plants and their pollinators, and she's combined these two loves into an incredibly informative and useful book that will help you choose the best plants for your wildlife garden to attract an abundance of native pollinators. She has effectively given us a botanical reference to native plants in conjunction with an entomological reference to native pollinators in one complete volume. ..." - Carole Sevilla Brown, Ecosystem Gardening