

# Pollinators

## Bees

Bees land on blossoms to collect nectar and pollen. As the bee brushes against the plant's reproductive parts, pollen sticks to its fuzzy body. When it flies to the next flower, this pollen rubs off, fertilizing the plant.

Depending on what flowers bees pollinate, the flavor of their honey will differ.

Bees pollinate more crops than any other pollinators which is why they are so important to our food production. Bees pollinate  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the food we eat.



## Flies

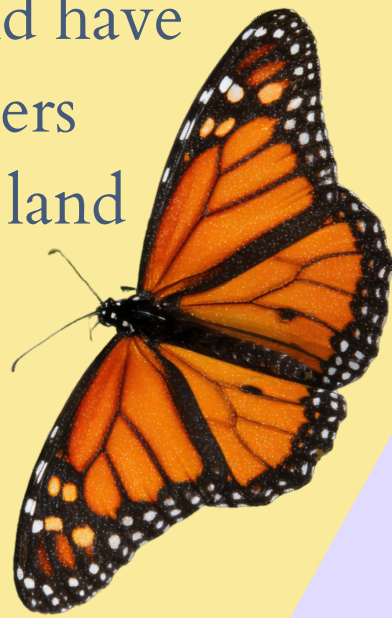
Flies are the second most important pollinators in the world after bees. Just like butterflies and moths, flies are an unintentional pollinator. The pollen sticks to the tiny hairs covering the flies body, so when the fly visits the next flower, it carries the pollen with it and inadvertently fertilizes the plant.

Flies are attracted to dull or dark coloured flowers, but what attracts a fly the most is the smell of the flower. Foul odors, like rotting meat, bodily fluids, and blood produced by flowers are usually meant solely to attract flies.



## Butterflies

Butterflies do not pick up as much pollen as bees because butterflies only eat the nectar from flowers and have no need for pollen. Butterflies pollinate flowers accidentally while foraging for nectar. As they land on flowers and sip nectar, pollen grains stick to their legs, wings, and bodies. When they fly to the next flower, this pollen brushes off, fertilizing the plant.



## Moths

Moths act as nighttime pollinators. As they fly between highly fragrant flowers to feed on nectar, pollen sticks to their fuzzy bodies and tongue. They then unintentionally transfer this pollen to the next flower they visit, helping plants reproduce. Moths are most attracted to pale or white flowers that bloom at night, although some moths are active during the day.



## Hummingbirds

Hummingbirds are responsible for pollinating roughly 8,000 plant species. As they hover to drink nectar, their bills and feathers brush against the flower's reproductive parts, catching pollen which they then transfer to the next flower. Due to the hummingbirds lack of smell, they are primarily attracted to odorless, brightly coloured (usually red, pink, yellow, orange, and yellow) tubular flowers.

To get protein into its diet, the hummingbird will fly around with its mouth open to catch insects.

Hummingbirds flap their wings around 20-80 times per second, allowing them to hover in midair and making them the only bird that can fly backwards.

