Attract pollinators
to your backyard

Pollinators like bees, butterflies, and birds play an important role in maintaining ecosystems. Creating a pollinator-friendly backyard ensures their survival while attracting wildlife to visit. Follow these steps to attract pollinators to your space.

BACKYARD BIODIVERSITY

1. Chose pollinator-friendly plants

- Native flowering plants: Use species like grevilleas, bottlebrushes, and wattles to provide nectar and pollen.
- Variety: Plant a mix of flowers that flower throughout the year to ensure a continuous food source.
- Colour: Include a range of colours, especially blues, purples, and yellows, to attract a variety of pollinators.

2. Provide water

- Water sources: Use a shallow bowl with clean water with rocks or sticks for pollinators to land on.
- Natural water features: Install a pond or small fountain for pollinators like bees and butterflies.

3. Shelter

- Nesting spots: Install bee hotels for native bees to nest.
- Plants: Provide shelter for pollinators with hedges, shrubs, and grasses.
- Logs and rocks: Do you have rocks at home you could re-purpose to create hiding places for insects?

4. Create a diverse habitat

- Plant: Group flowers of the same species together to make it easier for pollinators to forage.
- Wildflowers: Allow areas of your backyard to grow with a mix of wildflowers.

Blue-banded Bee. Image credit: John Walter

- Vegetable gardens: Pollinators love flowering herbs and vegetables like basil, mint, and tomatoes.

5. Safety

- Pesticides: Use organic pest control methods and chemical-free areas.

6. Monitor and Enjoy

- Monitor: Observe the pollinators that visit your garden and note which species visit your backyard at different times of the year.

iNaturalist is a citizen science platform that helps users record and share observations of biodiversity. It allows you to contribute to valuable scientific data while learning more about local species. Simply take a photo of flora, or wildlife in your backyard, upload it to the app, and the community will help identify it. Using iNaturalist is an excellent way to track your backyard visitors and support conservation efforts.