

Bee Campus USA - University of Georgia

Report on 2023



Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Please describe pollinator habitat creation or enhancement projects in your community in 2023, and whether your committee hosted them or not.

Milkweed Planting at Lumpkin Wood (hosted by The UGA Office of Sustainability): – Former UGA Campus Pollinator Intern and the Office of Sustainability hosted a milkweed planting at Lumpkin Wood to create more pollinator habitat
Pollinator Plant of the Year Plantings (hosted by The Georgia Center): – The UGA Georgia Center for Continuing Education hosted a planting of the Georgia Pollinator Plants of the Year (as voted on by the State Botanical Gardens)
Connect to Protect Garden Maintenance Day at the DW Brooks Connect To Protect Garden (hosted by Jeb Byers & Justin Ellis): – Ecology students and volunteers participated in garden maintenance including weeding Invasive Species (Nandina) Removal at Tucker Hall (hosted by Richard Hall): – Richard Hall’s ECOL 4900S class removed invasive Nandina plants around a UGA academic building

How many habitat projects did you help to create or enhance in 2023?

4

How many people (staff, volunteers, students, partners, etc.) helped with those projects?

60

How many projects benefit monarchs, milkweed, or nectar plantings?

3

How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?

1686

Please check all that describe the habitats your affiliate helped to create or enhance last year with pollinator benefit in mind.

- Flower garden
- Vegetable garden
- Orchard
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Meadow

- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Herb garden
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- Rain garden/bioswale
- Roadside/rights of way planting
- School garden



Education & Outreach

Please describe pollinator conservation events or outreach activities in your community in 2023, indicating whether your committee hosted them or not.

34th Annual Insectival, hosted by the UGA State Botanical Gardens: – The State Botanical Gardens hosted its annual Insectival, which is a festival dedicated to insect education and activities – Over 15 different activities were set up by various groups in and outside the gardens – Pollinator-related activities included displays with different types of bees in Georgia, live Monarch butterflies & demonstrations on parasite sampling, and a large butterfly release event **Altizer Lab Outreach, hosted by Colham Ferry Elementary (and other local elementary schools):** – Altizer Lab members hosted activities at various STEM night events at several local schools in Athens-Clarke County and surrounding areas – Activities included educational talks about monarch parasites & migration patterns, photos depicting infected monarchs, coloring monarch butterfly pictures, looking at parasite spores in microscopes, holding live butterflies, and more **EcoReach Outreach Nights-** hosted by various elementary and middle schools: – EcoReach volunteers ran a table at various STEM night events at several local schools in Athens-Clarke County and surrounding areas – These tables included activities about various pollinators and pollination, including monarch migration and bees’ relationship to humans

How many pollinator-related events or outreach activities did you host or help with in 2023 (in total)?

21

How many people attended those events (in total)?

3278

Number of permanent interpretive/educational/Bee Campus USA signs installed to date?

90

Number of temporary interpretive/educational/Bee Campus USA signs installed in 2023?

6



Insectival- State Botanical Gardens 2023

GEORGIA POLLINATOR PLANTS OF THE YEAR 2023

BLUE WILD INDIGO

Baptisia australis



- Spring bloomer
- Grows 4 feet tall
- Low maintenance
- Perennial wildflower in the pea family
- Blooms last several weeks
- Seed pods provide an interesting structure into the fall

Conservation value: Blue wild indigo supports many native bees and other pollinators. Leafcutter bees utilize the foliage for nesting.

AROMATIC ASTER

Symphoricarum oblongifolium



- Fall bloomer
- Grows 3 to 4 feet tall
- Low maintenance
- Grows in a variety of soil types, including sand and clay
- Perennial wildflower in the sunflower family
- Purple flowers with yellow "eyes" blossom in autumn

Conservation value: Aromatic aster supports many native bees, butterflies, hover flies and wasps.



WILD BERGAMOT

Monarda fistulosa

- Summer bloomer
- Grows 4 to 5 feet tall
- Low maintenance
- Grows in a variety of soil types, including sand and clay
- Perennial in the mint family
- Aromatic foliage
- White, lavender and magenta blooms in the summer

Conservation value: Supports many native bees, hummingbirds and butterflies.



COASTAL PLAIN JOE PYE WEED

Eutrochium dubium

- Georgia native
- Perennial wildflower in the sunflower family
- Grows 3 to 5 feet tall
- Low maintenance
- A crown of tiny mauve flowers blooms from July through September

Conservation value: Supports bumble bees, small bees, hummingbirds and butterflies.

THE GPPY PROGRAM

The Georgia Pollinator Plants of the Year program annually recognizes and promotes four top-performing landscape plants that support pollinators and grow beautifully in a garden. Nominations are solicited from gardeners throughout Georgia and are then determined by a selection committee based on each plant's horticultural value, ease of propagation and ecological significance. Plants are chosen from the following categories: Spring Bloomer, Summer Bloomer, Fall Bloomer and Georgia Native.

OUR GOALS:

- Strengthen a network of horticultural professionals through which pollinator-supporting plant materials and propagation techniques can be shared.
- Increase statewide availability and diversity of pollinator-supporting plants for consumers.
- Educate consumers about the increasingly important impact of landscaping and home gardens on pollinator populations.

Visit <https://laga.edu/8on> to nominate a plant or learn more.

PARTICIPATING RETAILERS

- Ace Garden Center**
2807 Demere Rd.
St. Simons, GA 31522
- Ty Ty Nursery**
4723 US-82
Ty Ty, GA 31795
- Gracie's Nursery**
5483 Murphy Highway
Blairsville, GA 30512
- Cofe's Home and Garden Showplace**
1145 Mitchell Bridge Rd.
Athens, GA 30606
- Southern Roots Nursery and Gardens**
726 Hwy 29 N
Newman, GA 30263
- Grower's Outlet**
159 Cown Drive
Loganville, GA 30052
- Southeast Georgia**
- South Central Georgia**
- North Georgia**
- Northeast Georgia**
- Metro Atlanta**
- Metro Atlanta**

GARDEN DESIGN



GET INVOLVED

Plant lovers - Nominate your favorite pollinator plants. Anyone can participate in the nomination process. We want to know which plants Georgians think perform well in their gardens and support high pollinator diversity. Visit <https://t.uga.edu/649> to nominate a plant.

Growers - Help us grow more of the winning plants. The State Botanical Garden of Georgia will serve as a seed source for difficult to find plant selections. Limited quantities are available. Email us at garden@uga.edu for more information.

Gardeners - Plant winning plants in your garden.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

- UGA Cooperative Extension
- Smith-Gilbert Gardens
- UGA Facilities Management Division
- Baytree Landscape
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- Coastal Georgia Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area
- Georgia Department of Agriculture
- Chattahoochee Nature Center
- UGA Bee Lab
- Georgia Power
- Trial Gardens at UGA
- Xerces Society
- Thunderwood Farms
- Georgia Native Plant Society
- Wannell School of Forestry, UGA
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Ecoscapes
- UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant

State Botanical Garden of Georgia
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

GEORGIA POLLINATOR PLANTS OF THE YEAR 2023



State Botanical Gardens

State Botanical Gardens

Curriculum, Continuing Education, & Service Learning

Please describe the curriculum your campus engaged in 2023, indicating whether it was part of a for-credit course or continuing education.

ENTO 3010: Bees, Beekeeping, and Pollinator Conservation ENTO 4300/6300: Insect Outreach LAND 6310 Landscape Ecology: Materials and Processes HORT(ENTO) 4770E/6770E: Discover the Wonderful World of Plants and Pollinators and Your Place in It HORT3500: Herbaceous Perennials I HORT3510: Herbaceous Perennials II HORT4990: Current Issues in Horticulture ECOL 3530: Conservation Biology ECOL 4900S: Environmental Practicum UNIV2302S: Success for Transfer Students SAMS 5425: Small Animal Vet: Bees

How many of your for-credit courses included pollinator-related information in 2023?

10

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

323

How many of your continuing education courses included pollinator-related information in 2023?

6

How many participants attended those courses?

90

How many service-learning projects did your campus host and/or support to enhance pollinator habitat on- and off- campus?

3

How many students participated in service-learning projects in 2023 to enhance pollinator habitat on or off-campus?

46

Please describe the service-learning projects your students were engaged in 2023, indicating which, if any, were associated with a course.

- Dr. Hall's Service Learning Class - Nandina Removal at Tucker Hall - won a Seydel Award - Weeding Day with Dr. Byers 3500 class



Policies & Practices

Please describe actions taken to make pest management more pollinator-friendly.

UGA's IPM program deploys preventive care for weeds and pests, during the "dormant" months (December – February) for primary liquid pre & post emergent applications to accommodate pollinators. This timing ensures less encounters with wildlife and insects. During the turf growing season, when turf areas demonstrate weed pests above a tolerable level those areas alone are spot treated according to product label. Granular rounds of controlled release fertilizer, which also serves as a carrier for pre-emergent, is used on turf grass in May/June or August/September to help control summer and fall weeds. A similar approach is used for landscape/ornamental bed weed prevention. Primary applications are made during the dormant season. Bed areas are patrolled routinely during the growing season. Weeds that can safely be spot sprayed and not harm desirable plants are targeted, all other weeds are pulled by hand to remove.

In your city or campus, are any policy initiatives underway to further protect pollinators, people or waterways from pesticides?

UGA is working on a proposal for a new pollinator meadow in front of UGA Vet Med School. UGA's Vet Med Bee Program, which is known for their research on the first Bee Vaccine ever developed, is attempting to expand habitat for their bee hives in front of the Vet School. In collaboration with FMD Grounds, they have developed a Pollinator Meadow plan for 3.5 acres in front of the Med School, to be developed and planted into flowering plants in April and May of 2024. Over the long term this project hopes to decrease the time needed for the Grounds department to mow and manage this location while also meeting the unique needs of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Did your committee participate in any continuing education on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management planning?

UGA's Grounds department launched a new Grounds Academy in 2022 which includes a brief introduction to Integrated Pest Management into its required Level 100 and Level 200 curriculum. As the program expands to elective 300-600 level training, it will include more extensive training geared towards both IPM staff and maintenance crews who are the eyes and ears re: plant and wildlife health across campus. Future training programs will explore how to assess levels of pest damage and which corrective measures should be implemented in accordance with the IPM Handbook developed in 2020.

Please check actions you have taken to make pest management practices more pollinator-friendly.

- Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan
- Avoided use of pesticides in public sites containing designated pollinator habitat or other sensitive features (except when targeted use is deemed the best option for invasive or noxious weed, insect or

disease management)

- Implemented non-chemical pest prevention and management methods on city or campus grounds
- Reduced the total area of city or campus-managed lands to which pesticides are applied
- Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use
- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds using “Buying Bee-Safe Plants” methods recommended by Xerces Society. (See <https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/buying-bee-safe-plants>)

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

The Pollinator Program recognizes the importance of mapping invasive and non-native species on campus and developing management plans for their steady replacement with more pollinator friendly communities. UGA is a clear national leader in its management of its campus landscape in sustainable ways, However biodiversity and landscape sustainability goals are not yet clearly articulated in our University’s strategic plan. Intertwining the numerous aesthetic and well-being benefits of natural landscapes and pollinators and an alignment with UGA’s teaching, research and service mission and strategic goals.



Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [UGA-IPM.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://sustainability.uga.edu/community-engagement/pollinators/sustain@uga.edu>

<https://www.instagram.com/pollinateuga/>