

# What's Buzzing at the Laona Ranger Station?

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Native Plant & Pollinator Garden

## "Bee" Inspired

Our native wildflowers, ferns, grasses, shrubs, and trees are a beautiful part of our local heritage with aesthetic, recreational, biological, medicinal, economic, and conservation value.

Native plants and pollinators go hand-in-hand. Butterflies, bees, hummingbirds, moths, and other animals visit flowers for food (energy-rich nectar and/or protein-rich pollen) and transfer pollen between flowers of the same plant species. Those pollinated flowers will then produce fertile seeds.

In this way, pollinators help feed the world. They're needed for the reproduction of 1/3 of the approximately 1,330 human food crops and 90% of all flowering plants!

Pollinators need our support because their populations face threats from pesticide use and non-native invasive species.

## Go Wild - Landscape with Native Plants

It's easy to help pollinators! This flower garden provides beauty and supports pollinator species essential to Wisconsin's native flowering plants. Can you find the species on this sign in this garden?

If you want native wildlife, you need to have locally-native plants. Cultivars and horticultural ornamentals often lack nectar for pollinators, and generally support far fewer native insects and birds than native plants do.

Cultivars can also escape gardens, erode native genetic diversity, and devastate ecosystems.

Locally-native plants support more than just wildlife. They provide year-round benefits as an environmentally-friendly landscaping choice. Adapted to our climate, native plants do not require fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, or watering - and less maintenance means more time for you to relax and enjoy the garden.



Help native pollinators and enrich your life. Use locally-native plants in your landscape!

