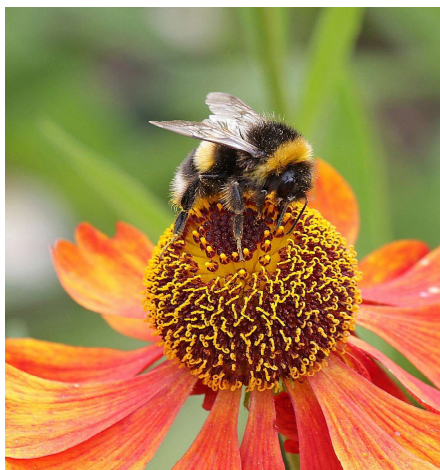


Balancing Beauty and Biodiversity:

Designing Urban Pollinator Gardens with the Viewer in Mind

April Johnson, NDSU Extension Pollinator Program Coordinator

NDSU EXTENSION



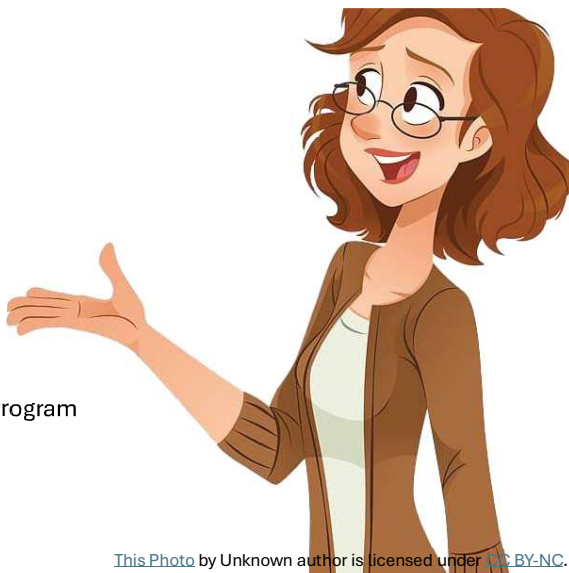
Nondiscrimination Statement

NDSU does not discriminate in its programs and activities on the basis of age, color, gender expression/identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, participation in lawful off-campus activity, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, public assistance status, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, spousal relationship to current employee, or veteran status, as applicable. Direct inquiries to Vice Provost, Title IX/ADA Coordinator, Old Main 201, (701) 231-7708, ndsu.eoaa@ndsu.edu.



Introduction

What is an Extension Pollinator Program Coordinator?



[This Photo](#) by Unknown author is licensed under [CC BY-NC](#).

Presentation Overview

- Challenges for pollinators in North Dakota cities
- How our Extension Master Gardener Program addresses those challenges
- Introduction to the **FAME** method:
- Next steps for our program
- Q & A



What is a pollinator conservation garden?

- Habitat for pollinators
- Contains nectar and pollen foraging sources, water, and shelter
- Mimics the function and design of natural habitat



Why should we care about pollinator habitat in urban areas?

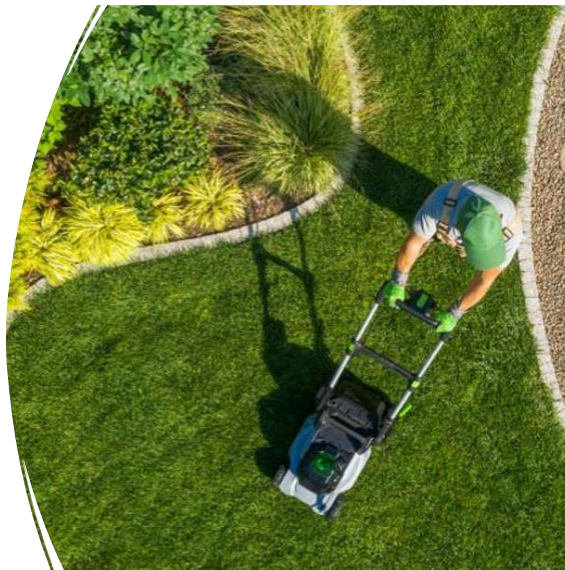
Pollinators play a crucial role in maintaining healthy ecosystems and food security.

Urban gardens create connections between remaining native habitat patches.



What challenges do urban pollinator gardens face?

- Lawn culture
- Public perception of cultivated beauty
- Neighborhood and/or city ordinances



Fargo Landscaping

- Rock mulch
- Near zero pollinator foraging
- Drought vulnerable
- Weed pressure



North Dakota Native Prairie

- Mix of grasses and forbs
- Drought tolerant
- Wetlands
- Diverse plant life!*



What are we doing to address those challenges?

- Educational Programming
- Certified Pollinator Garden and Bee Lawn signs



Why FAME?

- How did audience feedback inspire the FAME method?



Why FAME?

- How did audience feedback inspire the FAME method?



FAME

- Frame
- Accessorize
- Maintain
- Educate



F: Frame

Set Boundaries

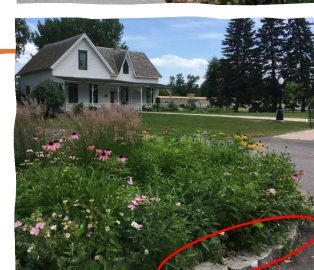
Examples:

- Paths / Pavement
- Borders / Fences

A good frame turns chaos into art



Case Studies



A: Accessorize

Add Visual Interest

Examples:

- Trees & shrubs
- Stalks & grasses
- Art



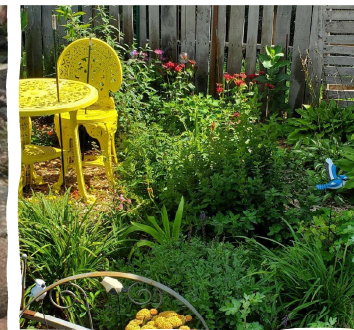
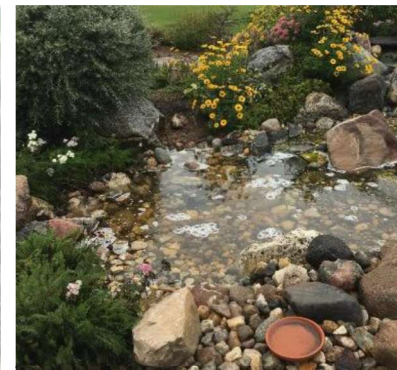
Art as Accessories

- Garden art
- Furniture
- Water features (water source)



Shelter as Accessories

- Bee house
- Feature wood (driftwood, logs, living fence, bound twigs, etc.)
- Winter interest: grasses and shrubs



Case
Studies

M: Maintain

Determine the Level of Care

Examples:

- Regular pruning / weeding
- Remove spent vegetation when temperatures reach 50 degrees
- Keep edges tidy



E: Educate

Make it Interactive

Examples:

- Pollinator garden sign
- QR code
- Plant labels
- Share the space*



Case Studies



Key Points:

- Pollinator gardens make a difference in protecting at risk species
- Use the FAME method as a simple framework to making a functional and beautiful pollinator space
- Apply for certification—get a free sign!



Projects for 2025

- Bee Campus, USA
- New publications
 - Bee Lawns
 - "Pollinator Gardens and City Ordinances"
- Participation in National Pollinator Week (summer)
- Podcast episodes
- Pollinator Conservation on Social Media and new website



NDSU | EXTENSION

Pollinator Conservation



Follow us
online →

Contact me: april.johnson.1@ndsu.edu

