



CEDAR RIVER GARDEN CENTER
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What's the Buzzzzz All About?

Happy Pollinator Week

By now, we hope you have heard the importance of the pollinators. Every year those hard working insects, butterflies, birds, and animals that make up this family are gaining more notoriety.

Virtually all of the world's seed plants need to be pollinated. This is just as true for cone-bearing plants, such as pine trees. Pollen, although seemingly insignificant, bears a plant's male sex cells and is a vital link in the reproductive cycle.

Visits from bees and other pollinators also result in larger more flavorful fruits and higher crop yields. In the United States alone, pollination of agricultural crops is valued at 10 billion dollars annually

(<https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/importance.shtml> accessed 6.21.2020).

Since their earliest origins, humans have depended on plants for their primary needs and existence. Plants provide food, medicine, shelter, dyes, fibers, oils, resins, gums, soaps, waxes, latex, tannins, and even contribute to the air we breathe. To focus more specifically on our industry pollinators help pollinator our food. 1 in 3 bites we enjoy typically comes from a crop that has been pollinated.

The week of June 22nd celebrates our appreciation for our pollinating friends. Each day this week we will be offering 20% off a perennial and tree/shrub that the pollinators are fond of.

Monday 6.22:

Asclepias (Milkweed)
Button Bush

Tuesday 6.23:

Sedum
Sweetspire

Wednesday 6.24:

Allium
Summersweet

Thursday 6.25:

Bee Balm
Lilac

Friday 6.26:

Liatris
Dogwood

Saturday 6.27:

Butterfly Bush
Elderberry

Sunday 6.28:

Coneflower
Chokeberry

The sales end at close and will change for the next day. We will not apply the discount to previously purchased plant material and will not extend it to any other day's sales. We want be fair to all customers, and we need to follow the rules to do this.

As always, perennials are not guaranteed and tree/shrubs purchased on sale are not guaranteed.



Monday - Milkweed



Tuesday - Sedum



Wednesday - Allium



Thursday - Bee Balm



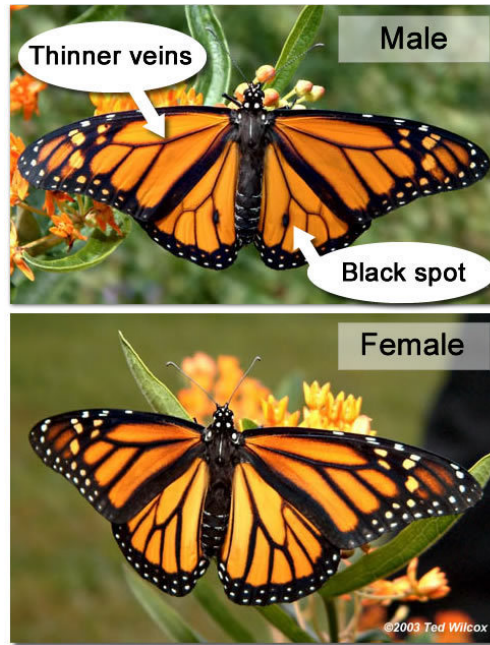
Friday - Liatris



Saturday - Butterfly Bush



Sunday - Coneflower



We Need Help!!!

We have a staff member who is planning to attend college in the fall for creative writing. We asked her to put together a short story for Cedar River Garden Center about the importance of planting a pollinator habitat.

She did a great job creating our short story, but now we need illustrations!

We would like to give our young gardeners a chance to illustrate pictures for the story. We don't plan to fully publish the book, but plan to make copies to share with our customers.

As a thank you, we will put all of the names of the artists in a drawing for prizes related to gardening.

Deliver a hardcopy of your drawing to Heather by July 5th for your chance to be celebrated in our short story. When you deliver the picture, don't forget to give us your name, telephone, and age so we can contact you if you win.

Don't forget to sign your picture in the bottom right hand corner. Include your age as well.

A few details to help with your illustrations:

- Our leading character is

a
female

Monarch
named
Buttercup

- Throughout
the
story
Buttercup
visits
with
a
few
friends.
Honeybees,
Hummingbirds,
and
even
a
little
girl
named
Lily.
- Buttercup
discovers
the
importance
of
habitat,
water,
and
a
chemical
free
playground

We welcome all artists that are high school age (seniors included) and below.
We are excited to see what you come up and don't worry your image doesn't
have to be selected to be added to the chance to win!



Which One of These is Not Like the Other?

My mother is a bird fanatic. She is excited to share one of her passions with anyone who wants to chat about her feathered friends. She is quickly and admittedly working hard to turn my one and a half year old daughter into a fellow birder.

They were recently excited to find a little nest with some blue eggs in it and had quietly been checking it. Then one day they noticed one blue egg was knocked on to the ground and one egg that was cream with brown speckles had joined the nest.

My mother instantly knew who had done what. Drumroll... meet the Cowbird.

According to Nestwatch.org the Brown Headed Cowbird is a brood parasite. This means the Cowbird will take over another bird's nest for egg laying purposes.

The female cowbird quietly searches for female birds of other species that are actively laying eggs. Once the Cowbird has located a nest up to her standards, she will usually damage or remove one or more of the original eggs. She then

replaces that egg with one or more of her own.

The original nest owner then unknowingly raises the Cowbird's egg. The Cowbird's incubation period is often times shorter than the host bird's. The Cowbird's young matures more quickly than the host's egg allowing for them to gain the larger food quantities.

You might be wondering if this population of bird is taking over due to their aggressive growth rate and nest stealing. While it is found that certain species of birds have declined while the Cowbirds did locally go up, NestWatch did feel this was in combination to the loss of natural habitat for the other bird. It was not solely related to the Cowbirds parasitic habit.

To deter Brown-headed Cowbirds:

- Use feeders that are made for smaller birds, such as tube feeders that have short perches, smaller ports, and no catch basin on the bottom. Avoid platform trays, and do not spread food

on
the
ground.

- Cowbirds prefer sunflower seeds, cracked corn, and millet; offer nyjer seeds, suet, nectar, whole peanuts, or safflower seeds instead.
- Clean up seed spills on the ground below feeders.
- Don't search for or visit a nest when cowbirds are around.
Side note: This one will be tough for the

above
mentioned
little
ladies.

Interestingly enough, it is illegal for humans to disrupt the Cowbirds eggs, as they are a native bird protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.



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