MEET THE POLLINATORS

The District is home to many great pollinators including native bees and butterflies. Here are some of the pollinators that you might find in your yard. By using pesticides responsibly and creating habitat by planting native plants you can do your part to make our pollinators thrive.

SWEAT BEES
These little native bees are great pollinators and nest in bare ground. Though they may be attracted to human sweat, they are relatively harmless. They are easily identified by their metallic green bodies and some also have striped bi-colored bodies.

BUMBLE BEES
These large hairy bees are black and yellow and sometimes also rust. They live in an underground nest. They can be found in your garden pollinating your berries, peppers, and tomatoes. The common eastern bumble bee is one of the most common pollinators in the US and one of the most important pollinators.

HONEY BEE
The most "famous" of the bees, the honey bee is a native to Europe that was brought over in the 17th century. Since then they have been helping pollinate crops. Honey bees are almost always kept by beekeepers in hives with the exception of a few feral colonies.

BUTTERFLIES
More than just pretty, butterflies are important pollinators. They have amazing color vision and unlike bees they can see the color red. They prefer large flat flowers with a good landing platform.

For planting guides or to learn more about helping pollinators: doe.dc.gov/pollinators

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR