



# 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.



Bi-colored sweat bee (*Agropostemon virescens*)  
Photo by Jesse Christopherson

## 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 stripped bi-colored bodies.



Common eastern bumble bee (*Bombus impatiens*)  
Photo by Jesse Christopherson

## 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.



European honey bee (*Apis mellifera*)

## 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.



Piperno swallowtail (*Papilio polydamus*)

## 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:  
[doee.dc.gov/pollinators](http://doee.dc.gov/pollinators)