



## **SIMPLE STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO SUPPORT THE DARIEN POLLINATOR PATHWAY**

### **Rethink your yard care**

- Do not use synthetic pesticides, fertilizers or other synthetic products.
- If you have a lawn, leave the clippings on the grass as fertilizer.
- If needed use compost as an organic fertilizer.
- Leave some leaves in beds for overwintering insects, mulch mow the rest of the leaves and spread them to fertilize other areas.

### **Create a way station for pollinators**

- Plant a window box, container or bed with pollinator plants.
- Provide a source of clean water.
- Replace some or all of your lawn with native plantings including flowers, shrubs and trees. Native plant lists and nurseries providing native plants are available at [pollinator-pathway.org](https://www.pollinator-pathway.org) under 'Your Backyard' and 'Resources'.

### **Be a leader and join the Darien Pollinator Pathway program**

- Take the pledge [here](https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/pledge) (<https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/pledge>) to maintain a healthy, natural landscape.
- Stop by the Darien Nature Center or The Gardener's Center and Florist, and get a yard sign that displays your commitment to the pollinator pathway and encourage others to sign on.

### **Be your neighborhood ambassador**

- Encourage your neighbors and friends to join the pollinator pathway.
- Contact us at [darien@pollinator-pathway.org](mailto:darien@pollinator-pathway.org) to receive a package of materials to share with your neighbors.

## **HOW DO I SIGN THE POLLINATOR PATHWAY PLEDGE IF I USE A LANDSCAPER?**

If you use a landscaper to help maintain your property, here are some steps you can take to be sure your landscaper is using only safe, organic products.

1. Ask your landscaper for a list of all products used on your property including pesticides, fungicides, ice-melts (not just turf grass fertilizer products). You can then do one of the following:
  - Search to see if the products used are listed on the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) website: <https://www.omri.org/ubersearch>
  - Consult with an expert such as The Gardener's Center and Florist 203.655.2549.
  - Contact us at [darien@pollinator-pathway.org](mailto:darien@pollinator-pathway.org) and we'll help you determine whether the products being used are safe.
2. Use a landscaper who is NOFA (Northeast Organic Farming Association) accredited or an Accredited Organic Lawn Care Professional (AOLCP). Please see our website for an updated list of these landscapers.

For more details please visit [pollinator-pathway.org/darien](https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/darien)  
Or contact us at [darien@pollinator-pathway.org](mailto:darien@pollinator-pathway.org)



## **I NEED HELP WITH MY GARDEN PLAN**

Our master gardeners are available to meet with you and propose ideas that would help you enhance your yard and make it more pollinator friendly. Please email [darien@pollinator-pathway.org](mailto:darien@pollinator-pathway.org) to request a home visit.

For more details please visit [pollinator-pathway.org/darien](http://pollinator-pathway.org/darien)  
Or contact us at [darien@pollinator-pathway.org](mailto:darien@pollinator-pathway.org)