Black-Eyed Susan Pollinator Garden Guide

Homeowner guide | Spring 2026

Maryland's state flower is a cheerful place to begin a pollinator garden. Native plants support bees, butterflies, and birds while asking for less water and care once established.

Choose the right spot

Most of the plants in this guide prefer at least six hours of sun. Watch the space through a full day before digging, and notice where rainwater collects after a storm.

Plants for three seasons of color

Plant	Bloom time	Light	Pollinator value
Black-eyed Susan	June to September	Full sun	Bees, butterflies, seed for songbirds
Butterfly milkweed	June to August	Full sun	Host plant for monarch butterflies
Wild bergamot	July to August	Sun to part shade	Bees and hummingbirds
Joe-pye weed	July to September	Sun to part shade	Butterflies, tolerates moist soil
New England aster	August to October	Full sun	Late-season nectar for migrating insects

Planting steps

1. Clear grass and weeds from the bed in early spring or fall.
2. Loosen the top several inches of soil.
3. Group each plant type in clusters of three or more.
4. Water deeply after planting and through the first summer dry spells.
5. Add a thin layer of shredded leaves or mulch, keeping it away from stems.

Leave the seed heads. Standing stems through winter feed goldfinches and shelter overwintering insects. Tidy the bed in spring instead.

Simple seasonal care

- **Spring:** Cut back last year's stems and pull early weeds.
- **Summer:** Water young plants during dry stretches.
- **Fall:** Divide crowded clumps and share them with neighbors.
- **Winter:** Enjoy the visiting birds and plan next year's additions.

Questions about this fictional program can be sent to sample@example.com or 410-555-0142.

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