

# Pollinator Bingo



## Facilitation Guide



### Welcome to Pollinator Bingo!

Pollinator Bingo is an activity that can be used to educate youth on locally found plants and animals that participate in the pollination process. This fun game can be used by parents and educators to teach youth about the diversity of pollinators and the many plants that require pollination.

### Climate Connections



Soil  
Stewardship



Food Security &  
Sovereignty



Habitat Creation  
& Biodiversity

## Materials and Instructions

### Materials

- Pollinator Bingo Facilitation Guide (includes 10 unique bingo cards, page of cut-out clues, and game instructions)
- Writing utensils (pens, pencils, markers, bingo dabbers/daubers, etc.)
- Scissors
- Bowl, hat, box, or other container

### Instructions

1. Cut out [bingo clues](#) from the Pollinator Bingo Facilitation Guide using scissors. Fold them up and put them in a bowl.
2. Decide what sequence will be the winner; for example, the winning sequence could be a straight or diagonal line, all 4 corners, or an X shape.
3. Hand out 1 bingo card and a writing utensil to each participant. There are [10 different card versions](#), so more than 10 participants will require using duplicates of some cards. Note that if prizes are being handed out, duplicate prizes may be required.
4. Draw bingo clues at random and read out the clue. Allow participants to guess what flower or insect it could be and get them to guess the answer. Once participants are in agreement, confirm what the clue is so they can cross it off on their bingo card.
5. Repeat Step 4 until a participant wins.





# Questions You May Be Asked



## Why do asters and daisies look so similar?

- Daisies and asters look similar because they are in the same plant family, called the Asteraceae (ass-ter-AY-see-eye) family. Also in this family are sunflowers, dandelions, dahlias, and many others!
- There are two key visual differences, colour and shape. Asters have purple or pink petals with a small yellow disk in the center. Daisies have white petals with a larger yellow disk in the center than asters.

## What are "native" and "non-native" plants and pollinators?

- These words refer to whether a plant grows naturally in a specific area, or if it has been introduced to the region from another area.
- An example of a native plant in Nova Scotia would be the buttercup, which actually grows natively in almost all areas of Canada. Surprisingly, plants like lupines and dandelions, as well as pollinators like the honey bee, are not native to this region despite their presence on roadsides, parks, and gardens throughout the early summer.

## What makes a weed a weed? Are they still plants?

- "Weed" can mean different things to different people!
- Some plants referred to as weeds are invasive plants that invade the habitats of other plants and can destroy or kill them.
- In other cases, weeds can simply be unwanted or "annoying" plants, even if they are actually helpful plants. For example, many people dislike dandelions because they take over grassy areas, but dandelions are actually important food sources to pollinators like wasps and bees.





## What's the difference between a summer squash and a winter squash?

- The term squash is usually used to refer to winter squash, including acorn squash, butternut squash, and even pumpkins! These squash types have thick and hard skins that allow them to grow in the cooler fall temperatures and typically grow for up to 4 months before they can be harvested.
- Summer squash are typically smaller in size and have a soft and tender skin. These squash types are great eaten raw or grilled and actually include the common green zucchini and less common yellow zucchini. Other summer squash varieties include the crookneck squash and straightneck squash.
- Fun fact! All squash are actually fruits, not vegetables. Squash and other fruits develop from the flowers of a plant, while vegetables come from the roots, stems, or leaves of a plant.

## Are bats really pollinators?!

- Some species of bats are very important nighttime pollinators in tropical and desert regions of the world. Bats are attracted to very strong-smelling flowers that are pale or white in colour. They usually pollinate flowers that are open at night, such as the ones on banana trees and mango trees, while they do not pollinate flowers that close up at night, such as some species of sunflower, dandelions, daisies, and poppies.
- In Nova Scotia, bats do not pollinate, but they serve as very important pest control. Plant-eating pests like beetles, grasshoppers, and stinkbugs are among bats' favorite food!
- A common nighttime pollinator in Canada is... believe it or not... moths! Some moths play an important role in helping us to grow foods like blueberries.





### Honey Bee

This insect is one of our best pollinators, is not native to Canada, and is attracted to blue and purple flowers.



### Cranberry

A tart, dark red berry native to Canada, this fruit is grown in bogs and is a food staple during the fall.



### Apple

Nova Scotia's most popular fruit. The trees are known for their pink and white blossoms in the summer.



### Blueberry

This berry is eaten fresh or dried and is well known for containing lots of vitamins. It is purple-blue in colour.



### Garden Thyme

This herb is a popular culinary seasoning used in pastas, vegetable, and meat dishes.



### Calendula

This bright orange flower has edible petals and is also known by the name "marigold".



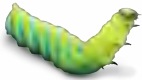
### Zucchini

This green vegetable is a summer squash and is great in both savoury and sweet foods.



### Daisy

A white-petaled flower related to the sunflower, this plant can grow in almost any environment.



### Caterpillar

Although not a pollinator, this insect turns into important pollinators such as butterflies and moths.



### Buttercup

This yellow wildflower is found on roadsides and in fields. The shiny petals help attract insects.



### Lavender

This delicate purple flower is known for its calming and relaxing scent.



### Strawberry

This bright red berry is grown in the summer, and is often made into jam.



### Pumpkin

This winter squash is bright orange in colour and the seeds make a delicious snack when roasted.



### Tomato

A fruit often thought to be a vegetable, this grows on tall vines and requires lots of sunlight.



### Lupine

This tall flower populates Nova Scotia roadsides in early summer and is purple, pink, or white in colour.



### Butterfly

This insect is a pollinator, but is more known for its bright, multicoloured wings.



### Aster

This popular early fall flower attracts pollinators and features a small yellow-coloured centre.



### Sunflower

These bright yellow flowers grow facing the sun and can reach up to 20ft in height.



### Mint

This herb has a refreshing scent and taste, and the dried leaves makes a popular herbal tea.



### Ladybug

This type of beetle is a pollinator and is responsible for killing many pests in your garden.



### Wasp

Commonly thought of as a pest, this species plays an important role in the ecosystem as a pollinator.



### Beetle

While many species of this insect are pests and destroy plants, others are pollinators.



### Poppy

Known as a symbol of Remembrance, this red flower attracts pollinators, but can also self-pollinate.



### Hummingbird

The main bird responsible for pollination, this species converts natural sugar into food for energy.



### Dandelion

A common bright yellow weed, this plant is a great early pollinator and can be used on salads or as a tea.



### Bat

This flying animal only comes out at night and pollinates plants as other pollinators rest.



### Clover

This wildflower is often considered a weed, can be purple, pink or white, and is a favourite of pollinators.




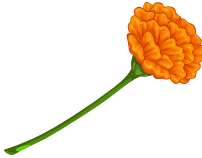






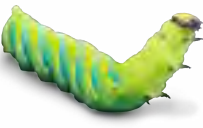













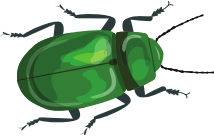


### Potato

This vegetable grows underground, but its leaves and flowers are above ground for pollination.

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# Pollinator Bingo









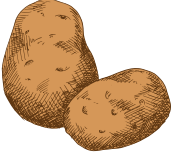










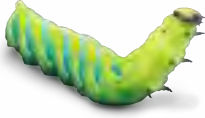


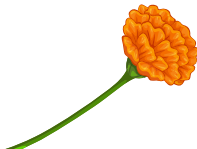


 Honey Bee	 Calendula	 Apple	 Blueberry	 Garden Thyme
 Cranberry	 Lavender	 Daisy	 Caterpillar	 Wasp
 Zucchini	 Wild Strawberry	Free Space 	 Pumpkin	 Tomato
 Lupine	 Butterfly	 Poppy	 Sunflower	 Mint
 Ladybug	 Buttercup	 Beetle	 Aster	 Hummingbird



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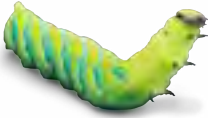
















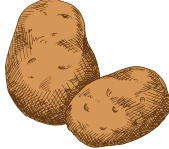
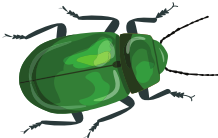

# Pollinator Bingo

				
Buttercup	Apple	Dandelion	Zucchini	Hummingbird
				
Pumpkin	Lavender	Honey Bee	Potato	Lupine
		<b>Free Space</b> 		
Blueberry	Poppy	Free Space	Cranberry	Sunflower
				
Wasp	Garden Thyme	Wild Strawberry	Aster	Caterpillar
				
Clover	Mint	Calendula	Tomato	Daisy









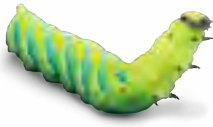












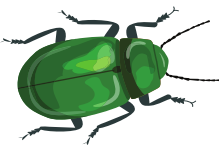







# Pollinator Bingo

 Lavender	 Ladybug	 Garden Thyme	 Daisy	 Clover
 Caterpillar	 Bat	 Aster	 Cranberry	 Hummingbird
 Dandelion	 Pumpkin	<b>Free Space</b> 	 Wild Strawberry	 Buttercup
 Sunflower	 Zucchini	 Poppy	 Lupine	 Apple
 Tomato	 Wasp	 Potato	 Beetle	 Calendula





# Pollinator Bingo



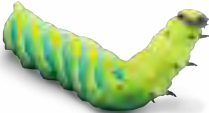











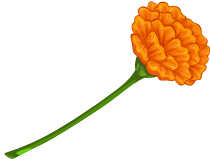



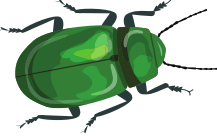






 Cranberry	 Dandelion	 Hummingbird	 Sunflower	 Caterpillar
 Honey Bee	 Poppy	 Wasp	 Tomato	 Daisy
 Lavender	 Pumpkin	<b>Free Space</b> 	 Garden Thyme	 Bat
 Clover	 Blueberry	 Beetle	 Wild Strawberry	 Buttercup
 Zucchini	 Ladybug	 Aster	 Butterfly	 Apple



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# Pollinator Bingo














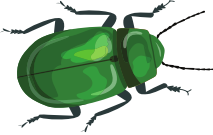









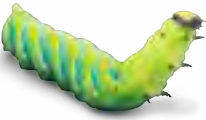

 Sunflower	 Wild Strawberry	 Caterpillar	 Aster	 Zucchini
 Potato	 Lavender	 Butterfly	 Apple	 Clover
 Garden Thyme	 Hummingbird	<b>Free Space</b> 	 Lupine	 Calendula
 Honey Bee	 Daisy	 Buttercup	 Beetle	 Tomato
 Ladybug	 Pumpkin	 Bat	 Blueberry	 Mint



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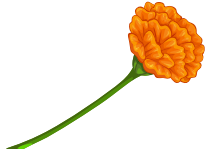


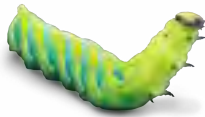








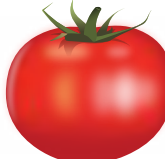
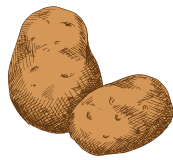






# Pollinator Bingo

 Ladybug	 Blueberry	 Clover	 Calendula	 Honey Bee
 Lupine	 Wasp	 Daisy	 Mint	 Buttercup
 Zucchini	 Apple	Free Space 	 Beetle	 Cranberry
 Pumpkin	 Dandelion	 Poppy	 Sunflower	 Garden Thyme
 Hummingbird	 Wild Strawberry	 Butterfly	 Caterpillar	 Lavender






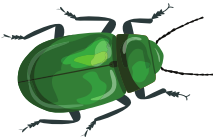















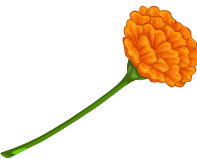

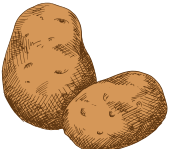




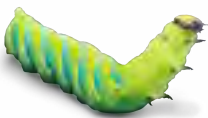
# Pollinator Bingo

 Hummingbird	 Cranberry	 Bat	 Aster	 Wild Strawberry
 Calendula	 Lavender	 Apple	 Caterpillar	 Wasp
 Sunflower	 Blueberry	Free Space 	 Buttercup	 Poppy
 Mint	 Butterfly	 Tomato	 Potato	 Lupine
 Dandelion	 Beetle	 Pumpkin	 Garden Thyme	 Daisy




















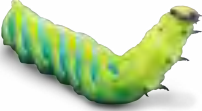





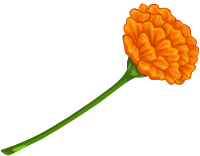



# Pollinator Bingo

 Pumpkin	 Beetle	 Daisy	 Blueberry	 Ladybug
 Bat	 Lavender	 Mint	 Apple	 Honey Bee
 Lupine	 Wild Strawberry	<b>Free Space</b> 	 Butterfly	 Cranberry
 Zucchini	 Hummingbird	 Calendula	 Poppy	 Potato
 Garden Thyme	 Buttercup	 Tomato	 Aster	 Caterpillar











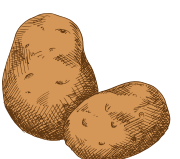






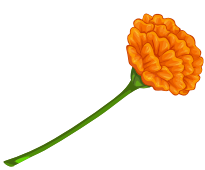











# Pollinator Bingo

 Clover	 Apple	 Pumpkin	 Butterfly	 Daisy
 Poppy	 Beetle	 Ladybug	 Wasp	 Aster
 Lupine	 Bat	Free Space 	 Blueberry	 Hummingbird
 Caterpillar	 Garden Thyme	 Buttercup	 Lavender	 Cranberry
 Wild Strawberry	 Calendula	 Dandelion	 Honey Bee	 Zucchini





# Pollinator Bingo

 Dandelion	 Mint	 Pumpkin	 Butterfly	 Wild Strawberry
 Zucchini	 Potato	 Poppy	 Sunflower	 Aster
 Lupine	 Hummingbird	Free Space 	 Calendula	 Cranberry
 Daisy	 Tomato	 Buttercup	 Blueberry	 Wasp
 Caterpillar	 Honey Bee	 Ladybug	 Lavender	 Garden Thyme

