



Happy November from the Portneuf Pollinator Partnership!

October was an exceptional month for planning and preparing fall eco-gardens. Our New Knowledge Adventures class on Eco-Gardening was well-attended, and participants expressed great enthusiasm. We are delighted to offer these classes to our community. If you are interested in class offerings, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Email: portneuf.pollinator.partnership@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.isu.edu/portneuf-pollinator-partnership/>

Our vision is to promote and encourage the establishment of optimal habitat for pollinators throughout the Portneuf Valley.

We Are Grateful for You!

As we give thanks this Thanksgiving, we thank you! 🌻 🦋 🐝 🐞

Your interest in learning more and your effort to increase pollinator habitat in our community is inspiring. As you see the pollinators thriving in the habitats you've created, remember that you are a key player in a story of resilience and hope. Let this gratitude spark even more action. May your efforts inspire others to jump on board with this important mission, so we can enjoy a world where flowers bloom everywhere and every bite of food celebrates the magic of pollination.

We are excited to announce two hands-on workshop opportunities offered through Pocatello Parks and Recreation and New Knowledge Adventures in January and February 2026.

How to Grow Native Plants Using the Winter Sowing Method

Please visit our website and access these links to sign-up and learn more!

Wednesday, January 21, 2026 @ 1:00 – 3:00 pm; [Pocatello Parks & Recreation](#)

Thursday, February 4, 2026 @ 1:30 – 3:00 pm; [Liberty Hall; New Knowledge Adventures](#)



Winter Sowing Workshops

**Let it Snow, Let it Grow:
Your Winter Sowing Adventure!**





Overwintering Habitat for Pollinators and How You Can Help

Overwintering pollinators survive the winter by hibernating in various natural shelters, such as leaf litter, hollow stems, or underground burrows. To support them, leave fallen leaves and dead plant stems in place, create brush, or log piles, and allow some bare, undisturbed soil in your garden. Avoid extensive fall cleanup and the use of pesticides to ensure these pollinators have a safe and healthy place to rest and wait for spring.

How to Help Pollinators Overwinter

- **Leave the leaves:** A layer of fallen leaves provides insulation and shelter for butterflies, moths, and ground-nesting bees.
- **Save the stems:** Leave hollow stems from plants like coneflowers and bee balm standing. Many solitary bees' nest in these hollow cavities until spring.
- **Provide brush and log piles:** These structures offer protection from predators and harsh weather for insects like ladybugs and lacewings, as well as a place for queens to hibernate.
- **Don't disturb bare soil:** Many bumblebees and other ground-nesting bees hibernate in small, underground tunnels. Leave some sunny, bare patches of soil undisturbed.

- **Create rock piles or walls:** These can provide nooks and crannies for overwintering insects.
- **Wait to prune:** Hold off on cutting back dead plants until late spring, when pollinators are actively emerging.
- **Avoid pesticides:** Pesticides can be harmful to overwintering insects, so avoid using them in your garden.
- **Plant for the future:** Add native plants that bloom in early spring and late fall to provide a food source for emerging pollinators.

For more information and resources, please visit our homepage and access:

Leave the Leaves | Take on the challenge to keep leaf litter for pollinator winter habitat; October/November

Let's Build a Bug Snug!

Everyone wants to be snug and so do our pollinators. Please consider building a bug snug.

A bug snug is important because it provides a much-needed winter habitat for overwintering insects, such as pollinators. These structures help support biodiversity by offering shelter from cold and predators, reducing yard waste, and aid in creating natural pest control and compost over time.

Here are some terrific resources to help you with your construction!

How To Make a Bug Snug for Pollinators

<https://www.bhg.com/how-to-make-a-bug-snug-8704275>

An Easy Free DIY Bug Snug

<https://www.gardenista.com/posts/bug-snug-easy-free-diy-project-garden-omved-gardens/>



Now is the Time to Plant Native Seeds!

You may have prepared your gardens for this fall, but did you know that now is the perfect time to plant native seeds?

Planting native seeds in the fall is important because it allows the seeds to undergo natural cold stratification, promotes stronger root development over winter, and mimics natural growing cycles for increased success. This timing helps create tougher, more drought-tolerant plants that are ready to grow vigorously in the spring, and it aligns with the needs of many native species.

To attract monarch butterflies, consider dedicating space to plant native species such as showy, swamp, and narrowleaf milkweed, which are essential for monarch survival. When establishing this area, you might also plant compatible blooming species like Rocky Mountain bee plants, firecracker penstemon, coneflower, and yarrow. These plants, along with others, will provide excellent nectar for pollinators throughout the spring, summer, and fall.

For sources for procuring native seeds, please visit the "Sources for Native Plants & Seeds" section on our website.

