



Illinois Clean Energy
community foundation

K-12 Pollinator Schools Program

Minimum Habitat Requirements

- Must be at least 1,000 square feet
- Must Provide at least 3 nectar sources for butterflies and other pollinators in each of the three bloom periods: early, mid, and late
- Must provide host plants for a minimum of three butterfly species
- Must be comprised of native plants with exceptions made for high value plants on a case by case basis*
- Use only natural fertilizers, soil amendments, and compost if needed (most native plants do not need added nutrients)
- May be herbaceous or woody plants
- May provide water source for butterflies, a basking site, and some shelter from weather
- May plant groundcover or use mulch on thinly vegetated areas to reduce erosion if needed

*High Value Pollinator Plants are plants Identified by the NRCS to be of high importance to several pollinator species. A list of plants that meet this criteria for dry, moist, and wet sites can be found on our website here: <https://www.illinoiscleanenergy.org/natural-areas-program/k-12-pollinator-schools-program>