Growing God's Garden Together: Mennonite Care for Bees, Butterflies, and Pollinators

Did you know...?

""Human beings have been made for relationship with God, to live in peace with each other, and to take care of the rest of creation." Mennonite Confession of Faith, Art. 6

Canada is home to ca. 800 species of native bees and 300 species native butterflies. These creatures are essential for the pollination of our fruits, vegetables, and flowers, bringing us an abundance of food and bounty of beauty.
This incredible diversity, shared by humans and other creatures, is an essential part of God's great plan for this planet.

God created the Earth, and humans are called to care for it responsibly rather than exploit it. God places humans in the garden "to work it and take care of it." This supports the idea that humans are caretakers of creation (Genesis 2:15). Mennonite teachings emphasize simple living, peace, community, stewardship, and care for creation. Protecting nature including bees, butterflies, and other pollinators is one way Christians can live out these values.

Caring for our planetary home is our primordial occupation.

What can you do today to fulfill your divine commission?

POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP CANADA

BEES FOR PEACE

Imagine a garden alive with bees, butterflies, birds, and blossoms.

Pollinators make it possible for flowers to bloom, fruits to ripen, and seeds to grow. Yet many are in decline because their homes are disappearing and they face increasing pressures from disease, pesticides, and climate change. A garden can be a sanctuary, offering safe harbour to these indispensable creatures.

Ideas for Our Church

Start a Bible study group to discover scripture's ecological wisdom.

"But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you." Job 12:7–8

Give a sermon on the joy of creation.

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." Psalms 24:1-2

Have a celebration.

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." Ps. 19:1

Start a garden ministry.

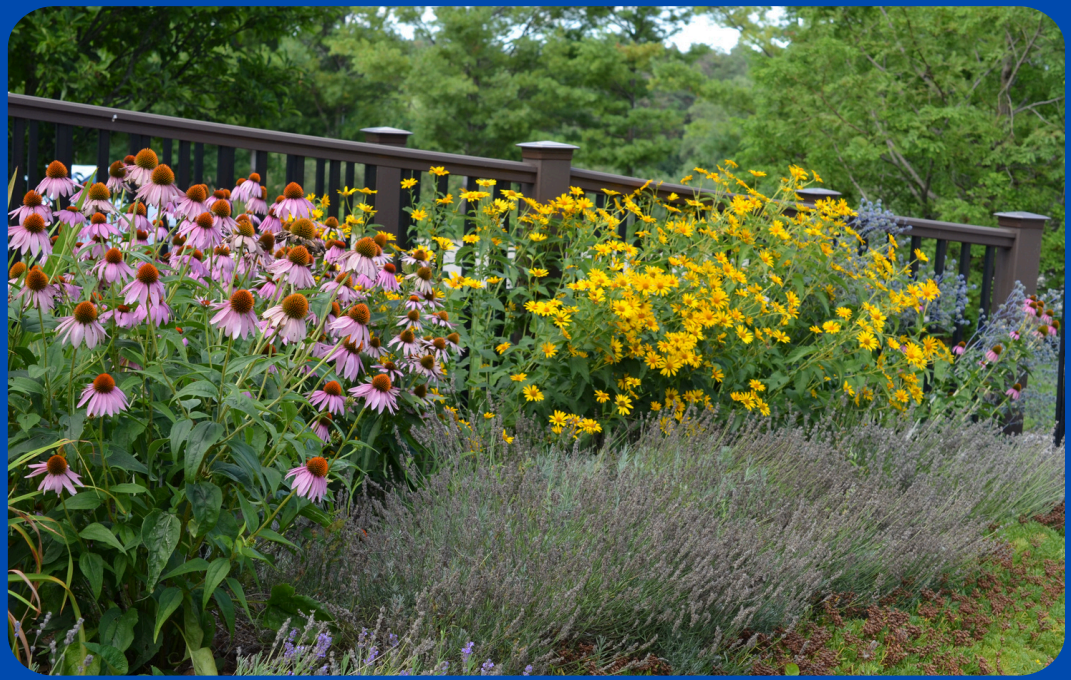
Help cultivate your garden and educate your congregation.

Host a Bees For Peace summer camp.

Our curriculum is fun, interactive, and adaptable to programs from 1 hour to 1 week in length. https://www.beesforpeace.org/summer-camps.html

Nine Steps to Creating Your Own Bible Garden!

- Choose a sunny location.
- Determine whether soil is sandy or loamy.
- Follow the 3 × 3 × 3 Rule: 3 species × 3 plants × blooms across 3 seasons.
- Plant native flowers.
- Add water and nesting places.
- Avoid pesticides.
- Share seeds during the Season of Creation.
- Leave stems and leaves for wildlife through winter.
- Determine who will care for the garden over time.



To find what plants are native to your area, scan the QR code and see our Native Bible Garden Template on the next page!

Native Plant Bible Garden Template

Canadian Template

The ecological relationships these native Canadian plants have with pollinators invite us to reflect on how each plant might harmonize with—and symbolize—our deeply rooted spiritual values. This template can inspire your community to contemplate together the relationship between your traditions and the ecological space we inhabit today—alongside other people, plants, and animals.

Prickly Rose

Love

Its bright colors and sweet scent act as a clear beacon for bees, butterflies, and pollinators looking for a quick meal.

Yarrow

Charity

Its flat-topped flower clusters provide easy landing pads filled with accessible nectar and pollen, complemented by a long blooming season reminds us of selfless care.

Fireweed

Hope

A lifeline for pollinators as it pops up abundantly after wildfires, offering a massive, reliable wave of nectar when other food sources are gone. Its long-lasting blooms remind us to be hopeful during hardship.

Pearly Everlasting

Gratitude

It functions as an essential larval host plant for butterflies and provides a reliable, long-lasting source of late-summer nectar and pollen for bees.

For more inspiration, see
https://www.beesforpeace.org/native-plants-and-values.html

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