Cultivating Compassion: Taoism, Blooms and Biodiversity

Did you know...?

"All things do their works without slightest complaint, they give born to others without claiming ownership. they do things without telling others what they have done, and they retire when their job is done. Because of their retirement, their achievement is eternal."
Quote from Tao Te Ching by Lao Tzu

Did you know that Canada is home to 800 species of native bees - none of which produce honey - and about 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.

POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP CANADA

BEES FOR PEACE

In Taoism, nature is viewed as a sacred, self-organizing web where all living things operate in harmony (Ziran) and effortless action (Wu Wei). Pollinators like bees, butterflies, and birds embody this philosophy perfectly: they fulfill their natural function without greed, ego, or a desire to control, sustaining the whole ecosystem while remaining unattached to the outcome of their work. Ancient texts like the *Zhuangzi* note that humans should learn humility from the smallest creatures, observing how living things accomplish vital work quietly without claiming ownership or demanding praise.

How can you practice humility today for the well-being of all of life?

https://www.thedaobums.com/topic/47421-taoist-lessons-from-nature/

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 Dao Guan

Practice Non-Interference (Wu Wei).
Stop constant lawn mowing and garden tidying. Let native weeds and wildflowers grow to provide natural food and shelter.

Have a celebration.
Break ground on your garden. Talk about healthy gardening practices and the benefits of locally produced foods.

Study Taosim teachings on the spiritual significance of creation.
Taoism teaches that creation is an ongoing, natural unfolding from a singular, formless source called the Dao (the Way) rather than an event engineered by a personal creator god

Start a Pollinator Team.
Help cultivate your garden and educate your congregation.

Host a Bees For Peace summer camp or incorporate its activities into your children's programs.
https://www.beesforpeace.org/summer-camps.html

Nine Steps to Creating Your Own Harmonious Breath (Qi) Garden!

- Choose a sunny location.
- Determine whether soil is clay, 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 Harmonious Breath (Qi) Garden Template on the next page!

Native Plant Harmonious Breath (Qi) Garden Template

Canadian Template

Here, we present a selection of flowering plants native to Canada, along with their ecological relationships with pollinators. They invite us to reflect on how each plant might harmonize with—and symbolize—our deeply rooted spiritual values. May these ideas encourage you and your community to contemplate together the relationship between your traditions and the ecological space we inhabit today—alongside other people, plants, and animals.:

Common evening-primrose

Healing

Opening as daylight fades, its flowers offer nourishment to nocturnal pollinators such as moths, symbolizing the quiet healing that can happen in darkness and stillness.

Boneset

Compassion

Its clustered flowers provide an important late-summer source of nectar for bees and butterflies, reflecting compassion through the simple act of sustaining others when they need it.

Common milkweed

Transformation

Acts as a spiritual sanctuary, nurturing the soul through its most vulnerable phases so it can eventually take flight.

Canada goldenrod

Reconciliation

Its abundant late-season blooms bring together pollinators at a time when other flowers are fading, symbolizing the healing of what has been divided.

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