

## **Supplies List for National Pollinator Month (June 2022) Kids DIY Projects**

Below are the supplies needed for the 3 DIY Kids Pollinator Projects. Step-by-step instructions for each project and the corresponding videos will be posted by 5/16 on the program website, [www.atc-GrowSmart.com/library](http://www.atc-GrowSmart.com/library)

### **Sunflower Project supplies:**

1. Sunflower seeds
2. Container if they are not planting sunflowers directly in a garden  
10-12" diameter pot with drainage hole for 2' tall & shorter sunflowers  
3-5-gallon pot for taller varieties  
These could be recycled items
  - Pots from garden center recycling shelf
  - Pots from trees, shrubs or perennials planting in your garden
  - Old coffee cans, buckets, or anything that would hold soil and tolerate weather. Be sure to add holes in the bottom for drainage.
3. Potting mix
4. Fertilizer
5. Weatherproof, plant safe paint or markers (latex or acrylic)
6. Planting & Growth Chart - we will have one to download with activity sheet or use this one: <https://www.melindamyers.com/articles/kids-gardening-activity-booklet>

If you want to do something on a smaller scale at the library, you could start seeds in small pots and once sprouted with 4 leaves, move into a bigger pot or the garden. Here's what you'd need:

Egg carton, yogurt, or applesauce containers, or make your own origami pots  
<https://www.melindamyers.com/articles/origami-seed-starter-pots>  
Add drainage holes in the bottom of any container that is used

### **Make a Bee House supplies:**

1. Tubes for nesting (a dozen or enough to fill the container being used). Tubes can be any of the following:
  - Paper straws (not plastic)
  - Make your own tubes by wrapping newspaper, nonglossy paper or parchment paper around a pencil or dowel rods of different diameters.
  - Or use the stems from plants with hollow stems. Check your garden for these and more: Purple coneflower, lavender hyssop, bee balm & Joe Pye weed.  
Cut each stem below the node (ridge)
  - Drill holes in plants with pithy stems such as:  
Sumac, elderberry, and raspberries (watch out for the thorns)
2. Paint the open outer tip black to help attract the bees (optional)
3. Blocks of untreated wood and various size drill bits to create the holes
4. Zip ties, string, or wire to hold bundles together and prevent shifting if needed
5. Nesting structure to protect the nesting tubes from rain such as  
Cans, pieces of PVC pipe, plastic totes or buckets, cinder blocks, wood frames or anything that keeps the tubes dry
6. Wire mesh to prevent birds and animals from eating the bees (optional)
7. Paint to decorate the nesting box (optional)

## Grow a Pollinator Container Garden supplies:

1. A container with drainage holes  
You can purchase a container  
Or make your own from a recycled or repurposed item
  - A metal coffee can
  - Old bucket
  - Nursery pot from a large perennial, tree or shrub
    - Many garden centers set these aside for you to help yourself
  - Tin that was once filled with cookies or other goodies
  - Fabric shopping bagLook in your basement, shed or garage for items to convert into planters  
Ask friends and family for old pots or items that can be planted  
Ask an adult to make/drill drainage holes in the bottom as needed
2. Potting Mix
3. Fertilizer
4. Paints or permanent markers to decorate the containers
5. Plants or flower seeds pollinators prefer and those that will grow in your yard

Evaluate the amount of sun your container will receive

- Check the space several times a day and record if it is sunny or shady
  - Check plant tags to find plants that will grow in that amount of sunlight
    - Full sun plants need 6 -8 hours or more, part sun (5-6), shade (4 or less)
  - Watch the weather forecast & record high and low temperatures
    - Some plants like impatiens and fuchsia need warm conditions and don't tolerate frost
    - Other plants like alyssum, dianthus and pansies take cool, even frosty temperatures
- Make a list of plants that will grow in your yard

For small containers you may only be able to plant one flower/pot

3-4 plants in a 10-12" pot; 4-6 plants in a 14-16" pot; 6-8 plants in a 16 to 20" pot.

Adjust this number based on the size of transplant purchased and the mature size and growth habit of the variety of plant selected.

If you want to do something on a smaller scale at the library, you could start seeds of zinnia, marigolds or cosmos in small pots and once sprouted with 4 leaves, move into a bigger pot or the garden. Here's what you'd need:

Egg carton, yogurt, or applesauce containers, or make your own origami pots

<https://www.melindamyers.com/articles/origami-seed-starter-pots>.

Add drainage holes as needed.

A special thank you to our sponsor:



*Thanks for helping to grow pollinator gardeners!*