



# North American Pollinator Protection Campaign

## WILDLIFE FACT SHEET

### CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED

### NATIVE HERBS & VINES

**The North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) is a tri-national collaboration of diverse partners working to protect pollinators and raise the profile of pollinator issues.**

*The mission of the NAPPC is to encourage and support actions to benefit the health of pollinating species in North America.*

**North American Pollinator  
Protection Campaign**  
423 Washington St.  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
415-362-1137  
415-362-3070 fax  
info@coevolution.org

*For more information about how to help pollinators or to make a tax-deductible contribution for pollinator protection, please contact us at: [www.NAPPC.org](http://www.NAPPC.org) or [www.coevolution.org](http://www.coevolution.org).*

*NAPPC is coordinated by the  
Coevolution Institute.*

The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the United States, spreading its watershed over parts of six states, including Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the entire District of Columbia. It supports over 3600 species of plants and animals and a variety of wildlife habitats, including wetland stopovers for waterfowl, fresh and saltwater habitats for fish and aquatic invertebrates, and forest and grassland habitat for birds and mammals.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has identified approximately 370 species of native plants within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (CBW), including 183 herbaceous plants, 68 shrubs, 28 herbaceous emergents, 78 trees, and 12 vines. Wildlife inhabiting the CBW rely on nearly 60% of these native floral resources especially for the leaves, roots, nuts, seeds, fruit, pollen, nectar and other food resources they provide - thanks to the reproductive services of the pollinators that visit them. Native plants are also important for shelter, nesting, perching, and other habitat uses.



**Herbaceous plants** are the largest group of native plants in the CBW (183 species), with 36% of these used as food for wildlife. Just a few of the herbaceous plant genera indispensable to wildlife (especially songbirds)



AND pollinators include:

Joe pye weed	<i>Eupatorium</i> spp.
Coneflowers	<i>Rudbeckia</i> spp.
Goldenrods	<i>Solidago</i> spp.
Sundrops	<i>Oenothera</i> spp.
Sunflowers	<i>Helianthus</i> spp.

The Maryland Wild Senna (*Senna marilandica*) is an important food source for upland game birds. Virtually all species of native herbaceous plant in the CBW invite incalculable quantities of butterflies and other pollinators to visit their abundant pollen and nectar resources by displaying attractive, brightly colored flowers.

**Herbaceous emergents** are a small group of native plants in the CBW, yet 57% of the 28 species provide food for wildlife, especially for waterfowl and small mammals. Some of the pollinated species include:

Blue flags	<i>Iris</i> spp.
Water lilies	<i>Nuphar lutea</i> and <i>Nymphaea odorata</i>
Arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i>
Pickerelweed	<i>Pontederia cordata</i>



**What You Can Do:**

Pollinators are in decline throughout their ranges partly as a result of habitat loss and invasive species.

**You can help pollinators, wildlife, and native plants in simple ways:**

- Join NAPPC.
- Contact your legislators to tell them that you support measures to protect wild lands from development and to restore native habitats.
- Work with local and regional community groups to reduce the negative effects of urban sprawl and create pollinator habitat.

**Pollinators,  
wildlife, plants,  
and your friends  
at NAPPC  
Thank You!**

**Please contact us at:  
[www.NAPPC.org](http://www.NAPPC.org) or  
[www.coevolution.org](http://www.coevolution.org).**

**Vines** are also important to wildlife, with 58% of the native species used by local fauna. Native vines good for wildlife and pollinators include:

- |                      |                                    |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Trumpet Honeysuckle  | <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>       |
| Passionflower        | <i>Passiflora incarnata</i>        |
| Crossvine            | <i>Bignonia capreolata</i>         |
| Virginia Creeper     | <i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i> |
| American Bittersweet | <i>Celastrus scandens</i>          |
| Smooth Carrionflower | <i>Smilax herbacea</i>             |
| Trumpet Creeper      | <i>Campsis radicans</i>            |
- (a particularly significant nectar resource throughout the range of the Ruby-throated hummingbird).

Virginia Creeper berries are eaten by a variety of animals, including:

- |                          |                               |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Eastern Bluebird         | <i>Sialia sialis</i>          |
| Northern Cardinal        | <i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>  |
| Carolina Chickadee       | <i>Parus carolinensis</i>     |
| Downy Woodpeckers        | <i>Picoides pubescens</i>     |
| Pileated Woodpeckers     | <i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>     |
| Wild Turkey              | <i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>    |
| Great Crested Flycatcher | <i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>     |
| Striped Skunk            | <i>Mephitis mephitis</i>      |
| White-tailed Deer        | <i>Odocoileus virginianus</i> |
| White-footed Mouse       | <i>Peromyscus leucopus</i>    |
| Red Fox                  | <i>Vulpes vulpes</i>          |
| Eastern Cottontail       | <i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>  |



Caterpillars of the Giant Leopard Moth (*Ecpantheria scribonia*) consume the leaves of Virginia Creepers. Other species of invertebrate and some amphibians use the foliage of Virginia creeper as shelter, and may be responsible for assisting in pollination as they move from plant to plant. These include:

- |                       |                                  |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Polyphemus Moth       | <i>Anthera polyphemus</i>        |
| American Toad         | <i>Bufo americanus</i>           |
| Red-backed Salamander | <i>Plethodon cinereus</i>        |
| Wood Frog             | <i>Rana sylvatica</i>            |
| Eastern Newt          | <i>Notophthalmus viridescens</i> |
- & several species of spiders and beetles



Wildlife, like humans and so many other species on the planet, depend greatly on animal pollinators to assist plants in reproducing the leaves, roots, bulbs, fruits, seeds, and nuts upon which we all rely for our food and survival. Without pollinators, would wildlife even exist? Would we? Many native plants and wildlife are

threatened by non-native organisms, which invade their habitats and out-compete with them for resources. We can help to reverse this negative trend by helping to protect and increase the number of pollinators that help to propagate native plants and the food, shelter, and habitat they provide for wildlife. Protecting pollinators and the essential services they offer to the food web is an important step towards ensuring not only the future of native flora and fauna across the globe, but our own future as well.

References:

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