

The magic of POLLINATION

Pollination is an essential part of plant reproduction. It is the process of transferring pollen from the male organs to the female organs of the flowers, producing their fertilization and giving rise to fruits, seeds and new plants. Pollination agents, water and wind, as well as very different living beings, from insects to some birds and bats. Among the insects we will see hymenoptera (bees, wasps and bumblebees), lepidoptera (butterflies and moths), coleoptera (beetles) and diptera (flies).

WHY IS POLLINATION SO IMPORTANT?

Plants and pollinators have evolved together for millions of years. Through natural selection, they have developed specialized physical adaptations that favor pollination. 90% of flowering plants depend on about 200,000 species of pollinating animals. The true importance of pollination is that it is responsible for keeping ecosystems strong and healthy. Biodiversity and food production depend on pollination. According to FAO data, 75% of the world's food and 90% of wildflowers depend on insect pollination (International Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, IPBES 2016).

Without bees, butterflies and other pollinators, most fruits and vegetables would cease to exist, which would drastically reduce world food production. The value of pollination is immense, and it is free. It is an ecological service and an exceptional gift that pollinating insects give us for free.



HOW CAN WE HELP POLLINATORS?

Pollinators' populations are at risk. For decades, they have been suffering from the effects of habitat loss and degradation and the inappropriate use of pesticides and herbicides. We can help by creating conducive habitats for them that will also be healthy and for recreational use. They only need plants that provide nectar and a nest to live in. Adding a diversity of native plants encourages the presence of pollinators adapted to local conditions.

WHO WILL INHABIT THE POLLINATOR SHELTER?

Different species of pollinators will occupy this shelter, from solitary bees, wasps, bumblebees and other insects that also help in this essential pollinating work, although honeybees are by far the most important.

