

North Carolina Cooperative Extension's Pollinator Paradise Demonstration Garden

In 2008, Chatham County Cooperative Extension Agriculture Agent Debbie Roos designed and installed a public demonstration pollinator garden at the Chatham Mills complex in Pittsboro, NC. The Pollinator Paradise Garden was designed to provide forage habitat for pollinators such as honey bees, native bees, butterflies, flower flies, hummingbirds, beetles, and other beneficial insects. The garden has since more than doubled in size and includes over 180 unique species of plants, 85% which are native to North Carolina. An Insect Hotel serves as nesting habitat for native bees and other beneficial insects.

The garden serves as an excellent teaching lab for workshops and garden tours. Debbie has done over 120 tours for groups from across North Carolina and out of state. The garden has even spawned “pollinator tourism”: a survey revealed that 88% of visitors spent money eating out and shopping in Pittsboro when they came to visit the garden (an average of \$96 over the course of the year).

The **website** for the garden has many **resources** for people interested in planting for pollinators:

- A list of all the plants in the garden
- A slide show of the garden through the seasons, featuring 150 photos
- A What's in Bloom List, with photos identifying all the plants, updated every two weeks and archived back to 2010
- Top 25 Native Pollinator Plants
- Pollinator Garden Workshop and Tour Schedule
- Nursery Suppliers
- Web Resources

Visit the garden website at www.carolinapollinatorgarden.org

Please come take a tour of the garden! The tour schedule is on the website. Private tours can be scheduled for groups of 10 or more.

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