

# Project E-PIG: Exploring the Ecology of Pollinators in Gardens



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## Background:

Pollinators provide important ecological and economic services, and in light of the global trend in pollinator decline, it is critical to understand what circumstances will help them thrive. Gardens and gardeners may have the capacity to help, and it is possible that the scale of individual stewardship is enough to make a difference.



## Questions:

- How do local and landscape characteristics interact to influence pollinator abundance and diversity in residential gardens?
- What gardening techniques most strongly correlate with more pollinators?
- What landscape patterns in our region influence pollinators?

## Methods:

Volunteers in Southern Snohomish County are measuring pollinator abundance and diversity in their gardens.

Each garden is evaluated for the following:

- Abundance and diversity of flowering plants
- Structure of vegetation
- Amount of bare soil, woody debris and water features
- Artificial nest sites and feeders
- Similarity/dissimilarity of neighboring yards
- Landscape patterns, such as type and quantity of habitats and development within 300m and 2km of each garden