



# Elk Root Conservation

## Planting for Pollinators Course 2024

### About:

Want to plant a pollinator-friendly flower garden that bees and butterflies will love or create a honey bee forage buffet on your farm or apiary? Not sure where to start? Whether you are looking to start a garden from scratch or supplement your existing gardens with bee friendly blooms, this course is for you.

### Instructor

Your instructor Kate Mizenka is the founder of Elk Root Conservation Farm Society, creator of the Sustainable Apiary Model and designer of Elk Root Conservation's pollinator demonstration orchard and gardens.

### WEBINAR\*: Thursday, April 25, 2024 / 6:00pm-8:30pm via Teams

During this webinar, Kate Mizenka the creator of the Sustainable Apiary Model and Director of Farm, Gardens & Apiary at Elk Root Conservation will guide you through how to plan, prepare, select, design and plant a sustainable flower habitat that you will love and bees will thank you for!

*\*NOTE: We highly recommend attending this introductory webinar if you plan on attending the Planting for Pollinators field days.*

### FIELD DAY 1: Saturday, May 4, 2024 - 9:00am-12:00pm

#### How to Create a Beautiful Bee & Butterfly Garden

This field day will start with an orientation of Elk Root Conservation's Educational Demonstration Gardens and tour of its existing pollinator forage habitats. Students will participate in the creation of a pollinator habitat from scratch and be able to follow its development through the growing season by attending additional field days later in the season! Suitable for all levels of gardeners and ideal for beekeepers.

Specific field day topics will include: your pollinator habitat as its own ecosystem; plant characteristics; site planning & preparation; plant selection & planting; plant nutrition; and pollinator identification.

## FIELD DAY 2: Saturday, June 15, 2024 - 9:00am-12:00pm

### Establishing A Wildflower Meadow & Filling the June Bloom Gap

Specific field day topics will include: 1) Pollinator Meadows: how to plan, select and prepare a meadow site, select local ecotype native flowering plants, manage invasive plants and grasses, care for, and successfully maintain your meadow into the future; and 2) Filling the June bloom gap in gardens and meadows through careful plant selection to counteract the lack of late spring and early summer blooms to ensure continuous nectar and pollen supply for wild pollinators and honey bees. Suitable for all levels of gardeners and ideal for beekeepers.

## FIELD DAY 3: Saturday, July 27, 2024 - 9:00am-12:00pm

### Gardening With Native Plants @ Elk Root Conservation's Native Plant Educational Demonstration Gardens

Specific topics will include: native plant ecosystems; identification of native plants; the danger of unmonitored seed collection and wild harvest of native plants from natural environments; selecting drought tolerant native plants in the face of climate change; the importance of sourcing local ecotype native plants so as not to pollute the adapted traits of local native plants through cross pollination; native plant care and managing invasive plant competition, and more. Suitable for all levels of gardeners and ideal for beekeepers.

## FIELD DAY 4: Saturday, September 14, 2024 - 9:00am-12:00pm

### Fall/Winter Preparations, Meadow Preparation & Fall Seeding of 2025 Pollinator Habitats

Specific topics will include: pollinator habitat development grants available to support your 2025 pollinator habitat project plans; fall to winter preparations; preparing and seeding pollinator meadows; planting perennial native plants; selecting plants for dividing, cutting back and frost protection by plant preference; selection and planting of spring bulbs; protecting orchard trees and shrubs from winter rodent damage and more! Suitable for all levels of gardeners and ideal for beekeepers.

**SCAN TO BOOK**

