

# Introducing Pollinators

## At the East End Lagoon Nature Preserve

Pollinating plants is the important work of **bees, wasps, flies, beetles, butterflies, moths, hummingbirds, and bats**. It is their job. These animals are called “pollinators.”



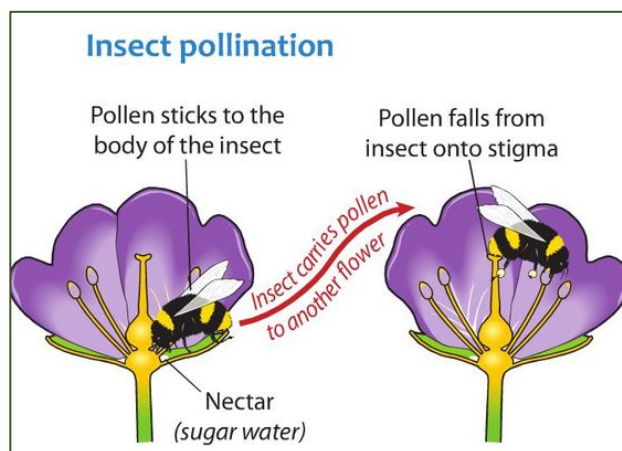
### What does it mean to pollinate?

**Pollination** is an essential step in a plant’s life cycle.

Flowers make a fine powder called **pollen**. Grains of pollen need to be transferred from one flower to another so the plant can produce seeds and fruit. Pollen can’t move by itself. While pollen in some plants might be scattered by the wind, other plants need the help of **pollinators** to visit the flowers and transfer the pollen.

### How does a pollinator do its job?

Pollinators spend their time visiting plants that are their source for food and water. Many are looking for **nectar** in flowers. Some get nutrients from other parts of a plant. Even the pollen itself is food for some pollinators.



While pollinators are visiting plants for nourishment they are also collecting and transferring grains of pollen from plant to plant. The pollen will stick to a pollinator when it visits a plant and then be carried and deposited on the stigma of other plants. The stigma is designed to receive pollen from the pollinators. When this happens, the pollination is complete.

If you would like to learn more about pollinators in Texas, look for the “Texas Pollinator Fact Sheet” from the US Fish and Wildlife Service [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)