

Nebraska is home to a variety of native pollinators that contribute significantly to the pollination of many plants, both wild and cultivated. Here are some of the key native pollinators found in Nebraska:

Bees:

1. **Honey Bees (*Apis mellifera*)** - Although not native, they are significant pollinators.
2. **Bumble Bees (*Bombus* spp.)** - Several species, such as the Common Eastern Bumblebee (*Bombus impatiens*) and the American Bumblebee (*Bombus pensylvanicus*).
3. **Sweat Bees (Halictidae family)** - Including species like the Green Sweat Bee (*Agapostemon* spp.).
4. **Mining Bees (Andrenidae family)** - Such as *Andrena* spp.
5. **Leafcutter Bees (Megachilidae family)** - Including the Alfalfa Leafcutter Bee (*Megachile rotundata*).
6. **Mason Bees (*Osmia* spp.)**

Butterflies:

1. **Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)**
2. **Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*)**
3. **Black Swallowtail (*Papilio polyxenes*)**
4. **Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*)**
5. **Common Buckeye (*Junonia coenia*)**

Moths:

1. **Hummingbird Clearwing Moth (*Hemaris thysbe*)**
2. **Sphinx Moths (Sphingidae family)**
3. **Yucca Moth (*Tegeticula* spp.)** - Important for pollinating yucca plants.

Beetles:

1. **Longhorn Beetles (Cerambycidae family)**
2. **Lady Beetles (Coccinellidae family)**
3. **Soldier Beetles (Cantharidae family)**

Flies:

1. **Hoverflies (Syrphidae family)** - Often mistaken for bees due to their similar appearance.
2. **Bee Flies (Bombyliidae family)**
3. **Robber Flies (Asilidae family)**

Wasps:

1. **Paper Wasps (Polistes spp.)**
2. **Yellowjackets (Vespula spp.)**

Birds:

1. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird (Archilochus colubris)**

Bats:

- While not as common in Nebraska for pollination, certain bat species can occasionally contribute, particularly in more southern parts of the state.

These native pollinators are crucial for the health of Nebraska's ecosystems, contributing to the reproduction of many native plants and the production of fruits and seeds. Conservation efforts are essential to protect these pollinators, as they face threats from habitat loss, pesticides, and climate change.



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