



Monarch Butterfly
(*Danaus plexippus*)

Just who are the "primary pollinators" in the St. Louis Country's pantry? Let's meet them and their "ambassadors"!

These mentioned representatives, our pollinator "ambassadors" were chosen "bee"-cause they are the most familiar, most efficient, most common, least aggressive, sometimes truly unique or just the easiest to recognize "pollen transporters".

These pollinators are also the easiest to attract. They are fun to watch visiting our flowers and need a place to call "home" in our landscape. These all can "bee" a welcomed part of our neighborhoods!

These are our St. Louis County Pollinator Pantry Ambassadors.

The Butterfly and Skipper Ambassadors:

- Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)
- Silver-spotted Skipper (*Epargyreus clarus*)

The Nectar Moth Ambassadors:

- The Snowberry Clearwing Moth (*Hemaris diffinis*)
- The Hummingbird Clearwing Moth (*Hemaris thysbe*)
- The White-lined Sphinx (*Hyles lineata*)

The Hummingbird Ambassador:

- The Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus columbris*)

The Bumble Bee Ambassador:

Eastern Bumble Bee (*Bombus impatiens*)
The "to busy to care about us" Eastern Bumble Bee represents the six most common and very subtly different species of bumble bees in Missouri, (*Bombus* spp.) We've also grouped the "he's got nothing but moves" Carpenter Bee (*Xylocopa virginica*) with the bumbly bumble bees!

The Mining Bee Ambassador:

Bunny -Hole Bee (*Andrenid*)
The Bunny-Hole Bee representing the many type of very docile mining bees



Silver-spotted Skipper
(*Epargyreus clarus*)



The Ruby-throated Hummingbird
(*Archilochus columbris*)



Eastern Bumble bee
(*Bombus impatiens*)

The Mason and Leaf Cutter Bee

Ambassador:

Orchard (*Osmia lignaria*)

The gentle orchard bee represents the mason bees and leaf cutter bees (*Osmia* spp. and *Megachile* spp.)

The Honey Bee Ambassador:

Western Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera*)

The ambassador for honey bees is the busiest of bees, the western or European honey bee. It is the most common of the species of honey bees.

The real value of the honey bees is not the production of honey. The honey bee, our most beneficial insect, is a grand pollinator. In Missouri crops like apples, peaches, watermelons, cantaloupes, squash and cucumbers are all heavily dependent on the honey bee for pollination.

The Bee Mimic Ambassador:

Hoverfly (*Toxomerus* sp. *Diptera*)

This most varied group includes all insects that pollinate and have the warning markings of a bee. Most are flies. They do NOT have stingers!

The Ladybug Beetle Ambassador:

The nine-spotted Ladybug beetle
(*Coccinella novemnotata*)

The Nine-Spotted Ladybug Beetle represents the many flower beetles that do NO harm to plants OR blossoms. These pollen-powered sometimes nectar sipping beetles, tumble, tromp and transfer pollen in the process of eating pollen. Some also eat other insects and so are very beneficial and provide natural pest control!



Hoverfly
(*Toxomerus* sp. *Diptera*)



Orchard Bee
(*Osmia lignaria*)



Western Honey Bee
(*Apis mellifera*)



Bunny-hole Bee
(*Andrenid*)