

# How to Perform a Pollinator Survey

## Materials

What you need:

- Pollinator survey sheets
  - pen/pencil
  - Clipboard (optional)
  - Stopwatch/timer app
  - Phone with iNaturalist app installed
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## Steps

### 1. Review the flower and pollinator ID guides

- Pollinator ID Guide
- Plant ID Guide

### 2. Choose location of survey

- Perform surveys between **9am** and **5pm** and only when temperature is above 60F, since that is when pollinators are most active.
- Find an area that contains flowers in bloom. Can be in any type of environment, such as a park, yard, sidewalk planter, community garden, roadside, etc.
- Find a flower patch containing one type of flower, or only focus on one type of flower in a patch containing multiple flower species.
- Choose patch containing between 10 and 50 flowers, and record the number of flowers in your patch on the data sheet.
- Be sure to record the location of the patch as precisely as possible. Give street and nearest cross street, or section of park if in large park.

### 3. Record the features of the observational patch

- Use the below guides to fill out the environmental characteristics on your data sheet before you begin the survey

Weather Conditions:

Sunny	Less than 3/8ths of the sky covered by clouds
Partly cloudy	Between 3/8 and 5/8 of the sky covered by clouds

Cloudy	More than 5/8 of the sky covered by clouds
Drizzle	Extremely light rain or mist. Light enough to not need an umbrella. Surveys should not be performed if rain is any heavier than this.

Litter amount in area:

None	No litter can be seen from where you stand
Light	Fewer than 5 pieces of litter can be seen from where you stand
Heavy	More than 5 pieces of litter can be seen from where you stand

Type of Environment Guide:

Roadside	Any green area found immediately to the side of a road or in the median of a road
Wooded	An area dominated by trees and woody shrubs
Grassland	An area with dominated by grasses with sparse or no tree cover
Maintained field	Any regularly maintained green area, such as in parks or school grounds
Residential yard	Any green space found within a private property, or planters maintained by a building

Light on flower patch:

Full sun	No objects are between your flower patch and the sun, excluding clouds.
Partial shade	An object is only covering part of the flower patch in shade, or an object allows

	some patches of full sun to reach the flower (such as a sparse canopy)
Full shade	An object completely shades the flower patch (a large tree or a building)

**4. Use iNaturalist to identify your flower species**

- Download the iNaturalist app and create a free account.
- Search for the NYC pollinator project in iNaturalist, and join the project.
- Take a photo of your flower in iNaturalist, use the iNaturalist suggestion and the flower guide to identify the flower.
- Record the flower type on the data sheet.

**5. Start the timer for 3 minutes and observe your chosen flower patch**

- Make sure to only count an insect if it lands on a flower
- Tally each insect you observe, only count each individual insect once

**6. Repeat!**

- It's useful to repeat the process as many times as you can in order to get a good understanding of the pollinators present within your area
- Make sure to find different flower patches for each time you repeat the pollinator survey