

DISCLAIMER: This landscape design is FREE to use for everyone that swears not to use ANY pesticide or herbicide chemicals in their yard (Especially Weed & Feed). Enjoy 😊

Soil Preparation

For entire garden bed area:

- For every 4 square feet, one bag of organic compost
- Mix in a balanced organic fertilizer (I like Down to Earth brand)

For our Houston gumbo soil I recommended using a shovel and mini pick axe to dig a hole a few inches larger than the plant roots. Use a hori hori for finer digging and weeding.

For plant holes, add WITH plant:

- Roughly -
- 50% potting mix such as Nature's Yield (low cost) or Happy Frog (high cost)
 - 25% compost/mulch (any organic brand)
 - 25% coconut coir (place block in bucket of water, will expand generously)
 - Handful of "plant food" (fertilizer), I prefer MicroLife Fertilizer (Houston company!), or you can find Happy Frog (high cost), or another organic fertilizer (low cost), use one containing mycorrhizae (beneficial microbes)
 - Handful of Earthworm Castings
 - Generous pinch of rock phosphate, buy the bulk bucket not the brand names

A large container of rock phosphate can be purchased relatively inexpensively and will last practically forever. Phosphate aids root growth and establishment of new plants - it's my favorite secret weapon in the garden!

Remove weed mats and mulch prior to spreading seeds, then replace mulch.

Houston Pollinators

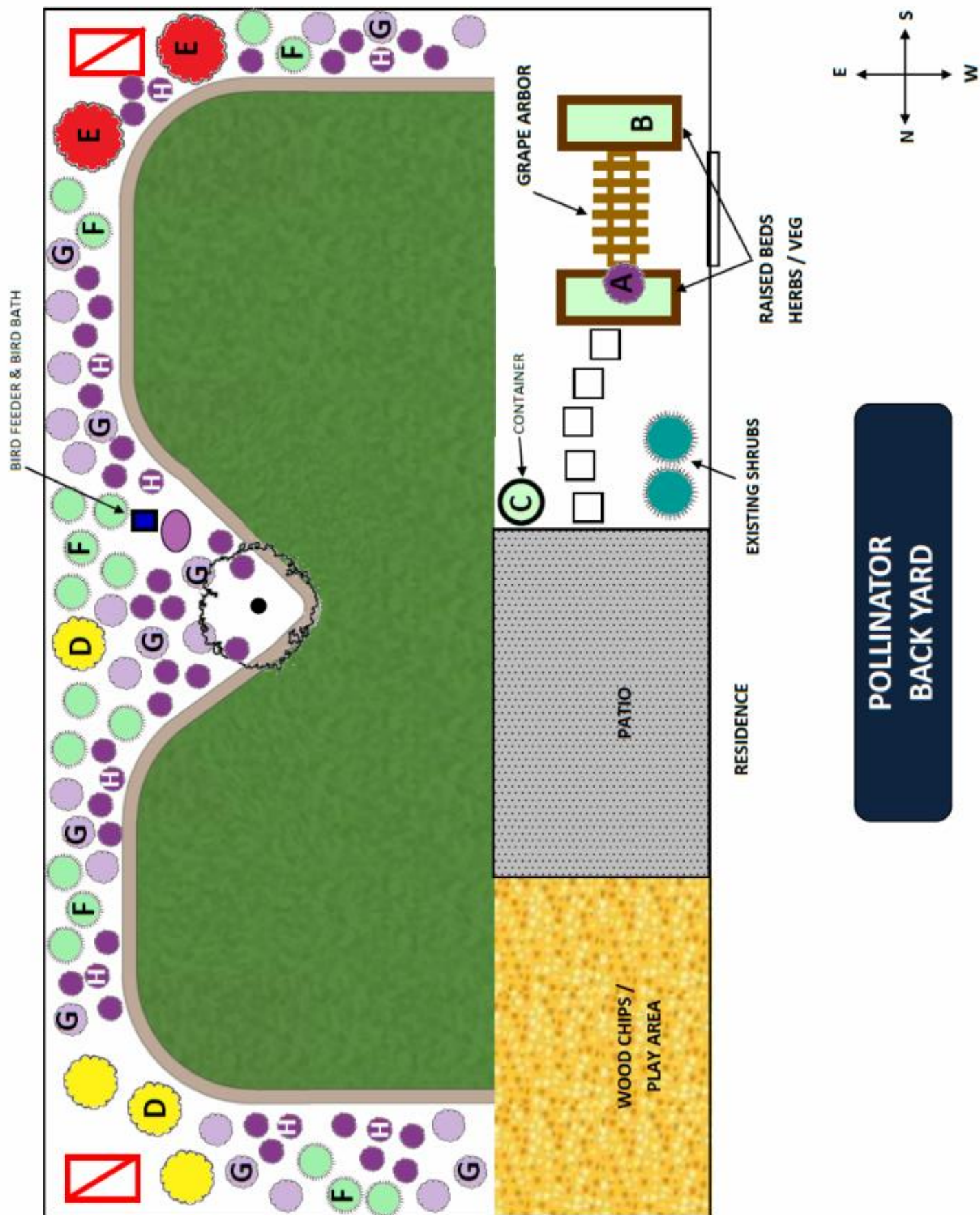
The plants in your garden are chosen to attract diverse native pollinators including:

- **1,100** species of **native bees** (also called solitary or stingless bees).
- 575 species of **butterflies**
- 1000 species of **moths**
- 11 species of migrating **hummingbirds** which fly through in Spring and Fall
- Wasps, beetles, flies, bats, and ants are also pollinators

**70% of native bees
nest in the ground**

Other Garden Friends:

- Ladybugs
- Assassin Bugs
- Lacewings
- Dragonflies



POLLINATOR BACK YARD

PLANT LIST

Garden & Shade Grove (naturally shade house)

- A. Mexican Flame Vine - butterflies
 - B. Herbs & Vegetables (esp. dill and fennel, ladybugs are attracted to it, host plant for swallowtail butterflies)
 - C. Container Flowers (eg. Ornamental Cabbage, cascading Petunias, sweet Alyssum, thyme)
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Fragrant Butterfly Garden

- D. 4-5' flowering shrub, for example:

- Rosemary - bees, butterflies
 - Firecracker Shrub - hummingbirds
 - Senna Corymbosa – “Yellow Senna” - host for Sulfur butterflies
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- Candletree, *Cassia alata* - bees

- E. 5-8' flowering shrub, for example:

- Vitex – “Chaste Tree” - bees
 - Esperanza, AKA “Yellow bells” - bees
 - Buttonbush - bees
 - Coral bean - hummingbirds
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- F. Showstoppers, for example:

- Muhly grass - bird nesting material
 - African Blue Basil - bees, butterflies
 - Butterfly Bush - butterflies
 - Yarrow - bees, ladybugs
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- G. 2-3' Flowering Plants (Buy & plant these in groups of 3)

- Bee Balm – “Monarda” - bees
 - Golden Baby Goldenrod, or Fireworks Goldenrod, or other *Solidago* species (Not allergenic contrary to popular belief) - buy packet of seeds and sprinkle near back of bed close to fence
 - Zinnia & sunflowers - buy packets of seeds and sprinkle in back of bed near fence
 - Coneflower, Echinacea - butterflies
 - Butterfly Weed, *Asclepias tuberosa* - butterflies
 - Red Valerian (Jupiter's Beard), *Ceranthus* - hummingbirds
 - Gregg's Blue Mist Flower, *Eupatorium greggii* - bees
 - Rudbeckia, “Black-eyed Susan” - butterflies
 - Red Turks Cap - hummingbirds
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- H. 12-18" Flowering plants (Buy & plant these in groups of 3 or 5)

- Sage, *Salvia* species - hummingbirds, bees, butterflies
 - Liatris, *Liatris spicata* - butterflies
 - Red Birds in a Tree, *Scrophularia macrantha* - hummingbirds
 - Penstemon, *Penstemon* species - bees
 - Gomphrena, “Globe Amaranth” - bees
 - Pincushion Flowers, Scabiosa - bees
 - Lantana - butterflies, bees, hummingbirds
 - Yarrow, Achillea species, bees, ladybugs
 - Shrimp Plant, bees
 - Poppy - buy seeds and sprinkle generously throughout bed, bees
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TIP! Buy a bag of organic seed containing cosmos, coreopsis, and Sulphur (among others) and sprinkle throughout bed!

- Small Flowering Trees (that pollinators love)

- Mexican Buckeye
- Redbud
- Silver Bell, *Halesia diptera*
- Texas Olive, *Cordia boissieri*

EXTRA CREDIT: Thyme provides a chemical called thymol which is a natural fungicide that protects bees from the fungus that's killing them. Buy as many thyme plants as you can and plant generously throughout beds. It is a gorgeous groundcover that spills beautifully over edges of beds and containers. If everyone could plant thyme and milkweed, bees and butterflies would be in a lot better situation!