Plant for Pollinators: The English Garden Model

English gardens, characterized by abundant plantings of eye-catching flowers, provide the perfect model of a landscape that promotes and protects pollinators.

To get started:

1. **Think locally.** Incorporate a diverse mix of native plants suitable for your climate and region.
2. **Plant in patches.** Establish flowers and grasses in groups to provide ample forage and make flowers easily visible to pollinators.
3. **Provide a bounty of blooms.** Include plants that flower in different seasons to ensure blooms from spring through fall.
4. **Give pollinators a drink.** Include a water feature to provide a source of clean water.

To maintain:

1. **Leave room for nests.** Avoid tilling, applying too much mulch, or using weed cloth to preserve space for ground nesting.
2. **Keep it chemical-free.** Do not use pesticides or herbicides.
3. **Leave these for the bees.** Leave woody materials in place during fall garden maintenance to provide habitat year-round. Conduct spring cleanup after pollinators emerge.