






Insect Pollinators and Flower Shapes*

Flower Shape	Flower Example	Pollinator
Bowl-shaped (larger and more open flower provides an easy landing pad for less agile fliers)		Carolina rose (<i>Rosa carolina</i>) beetles
Landing pads on the flower (pollinator can rest or feed and contact the pollen)		purple coneflower (<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>)** Non-hovering insect (e.g., bumble bee)
Long nectar spurs (protects the nectar from non-pollinating insects and allows proboscis or long, narrow bill access)		blazing star (<i>Liatris spicata</i>), mint family (scarlet beebalm, <i>Monarda didyma</i>) hawkmoths, butterflies and hummingbirds



Pendant shaped		Turks cap lily (<i>Lilium superbum</i>)	butterflies
tubular	 <p>***</p>	Foxglove beardtongue (<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>)	bees

* Information and pictures on pollinator syndromes from the US Forest Service

https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/Plant_Strategies/visualcues.shtml .

**See the Mt. Cuba Center trial of the Echinacea cultivars that were most attractive to pollinators if you plan to purchase an Echinacea cultivar. <https://mtcubacenter.org/trials/echinacea-mid-atlantic-region/>




*** Connecticut Botanical Society <https://www.ct-botanical-society.org/Plants/view/433>





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Flower Colors for Insect Pollinators*

Pollinator	Flower Color	Flower Example	
Bees	Blue, bright white, yellow, or UV		Bird's-foot violet (<i>Viola pedata</i> , especially anthophorine bees and bumblebees)
Beetles	dull white or green		boneset (<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>)
Butterflies	Bright colors, especially red and purple		Eastern columbine (<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>)



Flies	Pale colors, especially dark brown or purple and/or flecked with translucent patches		bugbane (<i>Cimicifuga racemosa</i>)
Moths	Pale colors, especially dull red, purple, pink or white		May apple (<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>)

*Information on pollinator syndromes from the US Forest Service
https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/Plant_Strategies/visualcues.shtml
<https://uconnladybug.wordpress.com/tag/purple-trillium/> photos Pamm Cooper

