

Monthly Pollen

July 2022

Native Pollinator



Photo Credit: James Jordan Photography

Fireflies, *Lampyridae*

Description: There are around 200 species of this nocturnal soft-bodied beetle in North America, all ranging in size of about an inch or less in length. The general appearance can widely vary but tend to be winged with flattened, dark brown or black bodies with a marking of orange or yellow.

Flight: The adults rest on foliage during the day and fly between dusk and midnight.

Nesting Habitat: Females lay eggs in soil of damp areas. The larvae overwinter in the soil and pupate in the spring to eventually emerge as adults.

Feeding: Not all adult firefly species eat but many that do feed on pollen and nectar.

Native Plant



Photo Credit: NMSU ACES

Butterflyweed, *Asclepias tuberosa*

Description: Bushy perennial that grows in a clump of dark green foliage 1.5' to 3' feet tall with 6" oblong, lanceolate leaves crowded and growing alternately. Large clusters of bright orange star-shaped flowers produced at ends of flowering stems or upper leaf axial.

Range: This member of the milkweed family is native to much of North America, except the northwest.

Bloom Time: Late spring through summer.

Native Habitat: Full sun to bloom. Prefers sandy soil but can grow in almost any well drained soil type.

Value: Provides an excellent landing platform for butterflies and produces ample pollen to attract hummingbirds, bees, and many insects.

Beneficial Insects



Photo Credit: Cathy Keifer/ Shutterstock

Beneficial Insects

Pest vs Predator: The larval stage of the fireflies life cycle is the most beneficial as the soil dwelling larvae are carnivorous. They will feed on many crop and garden pests such as snails, slugs, and cutworms.

Glowworms: The larvae of many species of fireflies are bioluminescent, thus the name glowworms.

Bioluminescent: The rhythm and intensity of light flashes vary with species but does identify males and females to each other. Synchronized flashing is characteristic of some species.