



# How to...

**COLORFUL CONNECTION**  
The various colors of wildflowers attract specific pollinators.



## Enjoy spring flowers

Get to know more about the blooms all around you—and plant a flower patch!

Spring is a perfect time to find out about flowers. Besides brightening the natural world, they are vital to our planet. Here's how you can get started.

### Know why flowers matter

Flowering plants produce breathable oxygen through photosynthesis (when plants turn sunlight and water into energy). In the spring, pollinators like bees and butterflies appear, transferring pollen from one flower to another. This allows plants to make seeds and fruits necessary for human survival.

### Walk your neighborhood

If you take a look outside near your home, you may notice different colors on flowering plants—like the ruffled red flowers of a crepe myrtle bush or the white or pink star-like blooms on a dogwood tree. Gently feel the textures of their petals. Compare each flower's fragrance. With an adult's permission, try using an app like PlantNet or Seek by iNaturalist to identify flowers you see and learn facts about them.



Discover their beauty gently.

### Visit a botanical garden

A botanical garden is a garden for the culture, study, and exhibition of special plants. With an adult's help,

search for botanical gardens near you and make a plan to visit. Before you go, check your local library to see if they offer free or discounted passes. On your visit, you may see rare and exotic flowers or flowers displayed creatively as part of a special exhibition.

### Plant your own mini flower garden

Visit a local gardening center or plant nursery to find out about flowers that are native to your area and how you can best care for them. You could make your own flower patch at home by starting with a few seedlings (small plants) and then planting them in a corner of a garden or in a pot. A few types of flowers that grow quickly in spring are marigolds, zinnias, and shasta daisies.

### Draw a still life

Some of the world's most famous artists, from Claude Monet to Georgia O'Keeffe, found inspiration in flowers. You can use a sketch pad or recycled paper to draw flowers you admire in nature or in pictures. Two simple flower shapes to practice with are daisies and sunflowers. Use a light touch with a pencil to draw the flower's center, then the petals, and finally, the stem.

### Floral destinations



Many dramatic flower displays bloom across the US in the spring. Here are a few.

**Poppies** Eight miles of walking trails wind through orange poppies (above) in the Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve, located north of Los Angeles.

**Bluebonnets** Fields full of bluebonnets bloom along 40 miles of driving trails in Ennis, Texas. Driving maps are available at the Ennis Welcome Center.

**Cherry blossoms** The nation's largest collection of cherry blossom trees can be viewed in Branch Brook Park in the city of Newark, New Jersey.