



## Bee City Wichita Garden Badge Guide

If you wish to go above and beyond when it comes to your garden certification we have the solution: badges! These are available as weatherproof stickers to add to your Bee City Wichita garden sign and are only available after you have already gone through the certification process.

### **How to Earn a Badge:**

- Have a completed and up-to-date Bee City Wichita garden certification
- Complete at least three out of five requirements for each badge you wish to earn
- Pay the \$5 application fee per badge to cover cost of printing and shipping

Please clearly check off which requirements your garden meets for each badge you wish to obtain. Send completed application to [nicole@grasslandgroupies.org](mailto:nicole@grasslandgroupies.org) along with pictures of your garden showing required steps for your badge(s). *Include a written description as needed* such as species of milkweed planted for the Monarch Badge or types of available nesting sites for the Bee Badge.

An online version of the application is available on our website or [through a Google Form here](#).

### **Native Gardening Resources:**

- [Bee City Wichita website](#) – local plant vendors, recommended plant lists for Wichita
- [KS Wildflower website](#) – helpful for plant ID and finding certain flower colors or bloom times; also available as a mobile app
- [Deep Roots' Sweet 16 Most Likely to Succeed Plants](#) – hardy native plant recommendations and garden design ideas
- [Kansas Native Plant Society Plant a Prairie Kit](#) – free plants available for teachers
- [Monarch Watch Free Milkweeds](#) – available for non-profits and teachers
- [Plants for Birds by Audubon](#) - Includes a bird-focused native plant database filterable by zip code.

## Available Badges:

You must fulfill **at least three of the five requirements** to earn each badge. Bonus requirements do not count toward this count.

### Monarch Badge:



- ☐ **10+ individual milkweed plants:** bunches of flowers are better at attracting pollinators over individual plants
- ☐ **2+ species of milkweed:** monarchs are known to use many different species, antelopehorn milkweed noted as especially important for Spring migrants, common milkweed helpful for its height and large leaves making it easier to find, and butterfly milkweed being beneficial to other pollinators such as native bees
- ☐ **3+ species of fall blooming flowers:** provides nectar sources for Fall migrating monarchs
- ☐ **2+ species of yellow or orange blooming flowers:** a butterfly's favorite colors
- ☐ **Milkweed primarily planted on garden perimeter:** this helps monarchs find the plants ([see this study for more information](#)). North-South access to the garden (no structures blocking flight) can also increase monarch visitation.
- ☐ **Bonus: 2+ species of native grasses:** provides shelter to rest and acts as host plants for skipper butterflies

### Bee Badge:



- ☐ **2+ species of blue or purple blooming flowers:** a bee's favorite colors
- ☐ **3+ species of flowers that bloom before June:** when most solitary bee species are active
- ☐ **Bee-appropriate water source(s):** small "bee cups" or a shallow dish with pebbles allows access to water without risk of drowning
- ☐ **2+ hollow stemmed plants:** provides nesting sites for cavity-nesting bees. Stems should be kept in garden overwinter until May the next year or can be substituted with a *maintained and regularly cleaned* bee hotel. [Xerces' Guidance to Bee Hotels](#). [Xerces' guide to creating natural nesting habitats](#).

- ☐ **1+ square foot of bare ground:** provides habitat for ground-nesting bees (can be one patch or multiple, smaller patches)

#### Bird Badge:



- ☐ **Hummingbird Home: 2+ flowering species known to feed hummingbirds:** Find plant recommendations for hummingbirds at [Audubon's website](#). Examples: native milkweed, columbine, bee balm, liatris, cardinal flower, blue sage, red bud (tree).
- ☐ **2+ native shrubs or vines present:** Provides shelter, food, and other yearlong benefits to backyard birds. Filter by shrub or vine at [Audubon's website](#). Examples: moonseed, virginia creeper, buttonbush, native grapes, smooth sumac.
- ☐ **Clean and usable water source:** water container should have a textured bottom or provide perches in and around water. Water basins made of glass or other slick surfaces have rocks, sticks, or plants added to allow usable access.
- ☐ **Garden plants provide winter food:** The site includes plants that maintain fruits, seeds, or nuts into winter, and seed-producing flowerheads are left standing until spring. Examples: grasses, asters like coneflowers, sumac, grapes. [Extended plant list](#).
- ☐ **No Outdoor Cats:** No cat residing at the residence and under the control of the occupants is allowed to freely roam outdoors.
- ☐ **Bonus: Calcium Source to support nesting.** Crushed oyster shells, baked egg shells, or other sources of calcium are available to reduce neighborhood infanticide by Blue Jays and similar species.

*More badges coming soon!*