



# BLOOM BOX Guide

## Beyond Bloom Box

NEBRASKA STATEWIDE ARBORETUM

### REMEMBER...

Your Bloom Box is designed to be the well balanced base of a garden that can be added to for years to come! A planting a garden is the beginning of a journey that never truly ends. Continue discovering new ideas and plants to include in your garden.

### Seed Packet

Use your seed packet to cover bare ground between plants with desirable species. Avoiding bare ground is the best weed prevention. These seeds will grow quickly and flower in the spring but fade over time as the other plants mature.

### Nesting Habitat

Build nesting boxes and insect hotels, maintain a small bare space or leave a small pile of leaves and brush to provide nesting habitat. See your **Guide to Creating Habitat for Pollinators** for more ideas.

### Add On

- Add bulbs for early spring blooms
- Add annuals to fill spaces between plants and bloom all summer long, seed in between existing perennials for a full, even look.
- Continue to add more perennials to offer a wider variety of food.
- Add trees and shrubs to provide very early food sources along with nesting and hibernation habitat.
- Expand the size of your Bloom Box Garden.
- Use Bloom Box garden techniques to make other areas of your yard or landscape more environmentally responsible.

### Explore and Share

Explore your garden to learn more about each plant and the pollinators that visit them. Share your garden with your family, friends and neighbors. Show them what you have been working on and why it is important to you.



An insect hotel can be as simple as wood shingles with holes drilled in them.



Annuals like Helianthus annuus are great additions to the garden.



The intricate flowers of milkweed encourage a closer look.