

## All Kinds of Pollinators



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*Lemurs are just one of many kinds of pollinators.*

Plants need pollination! Pollination is when pollen from a plant's flower gets moved to a certain part of another flower. This movement of pollen has to happen for a plant to grow new seeds. And new seeds are needed for new plants to grow. So without pollination, plants would be in big trouble!

Luckily, different plants have different ways of making sure their pollen moves. Some plants let lots of pollen out into the air. That way, the wind can move the pollen to other flowers. But most plants do not depend on the wind to spread their pollen. Instead, they depend on insects and animals.

Lots of insects and animals can help pollinate plants. You may know of some

of them. Bees are known for pollinating flowers. So are butterflies, beetles, and other bugs. Hummingbirds and bats also are big helpers in this way. But there are other pollinators that you may not know about! Here are some interesting animals that help pollinate plants:

## **Honey Possums**

These mammals pollinate flowers from plants like eucalyptus. The honey possum's tail and feet help it hang from tree branches. That way it can reach the tree's flowers more easily!

## **Lizards**

Some kinds of lizards are also pollinators. One kind of lizard that pollinates flowers is the Noronha skink. As this lizard sips up nectar from a certain tree's flowers, pollen sticks to its scales. So when the lizard goes to another flower, it moves the pollen.

## **Lemurs**

Lemurs are some of the world's biggest pollinators. Black lemurs eat the nectar and pollen of a plant called the traveller's palm. When they stick their paws or snouts into the flower to get the nectar, pollen can get stuck to them. Then, when they go to the next flower, the pollen goes with them!