

Scientist Name: _____

1. Look at your *Phlox* (tag numbers 4 and 5). Are there any flowers still open?

An interesting thing about *Phlox* is that a pollinator *must* visit for it to make any **fruits** (fruits have seeds inside them). Some plants can sometimes make fruit without a pollinator. But for *Phlox*, if there are fruits, we know a pollinator (probably a moth or butterfly) visited, even if we did not see them. Fruits will develop where the flowers used to be. They look like the little green balls circled below in the photo.

Do you see any fruits on your *Phlox*? How many on each plant?

Plant 4:

Plant 5:



2. *Chamaecrista* plants (tag numbers 7-14) attract bees with their flowers, but they also attract another cool insect...**ants!** Ants like to visit because *Chamaecrista* has **extrafloral nectaries** (spots outside the flower where the ants can get nectar, which is basically sugary water). In the photo below you will see an ant getting a sweet nectar treat from one of these nectaries, the dark brown spot marked with the blue arrow. This photo was taken at a Backyard Science plot last week!

Look at your *Chamaecrista* plants — **do you see any ants? If so, are they visiting the nectaries?** You may need to look at the plants on a few different days to spot them.





Why do you think the *Chamaecrista* want to attract ants?
(Hint: it is **not** for pollination...)

3. If your plot has flowers blooming, they are likely getting visited by our **native pollinators**. *Have you seen any pollinators (bees, flies, butterflies) on your backyard science plants?*

Your mission is to **observe your flowers for 20 minutes** over the next 2 weeks. You can split this into as many 5 or 10 minute watches as you want, or do the whole thing at once. We know it is hard to sit still, but trust us – it is worth it! It’s so cool to see bees drinking nectar and collecting pollen from flowers – John does it every morning in his backyard!

The best time to watch is on warm, sunny days, between 9am and 2pm. **Make sure there are at least 10 open flowers in your plot.** Each time a pollinator visits a flower, that counts as a visit! So even if the same bee visits 3 different flowers, that counts as 3 visits. Record your data below.

Date: _____

Time: _____

Minutes watched	How many flower visits?



Date: _____

Time: _____

Minutes watched	How many flower visits?

Date: _____

Time: _____

Minutes watched	How many flower visits?

Date: _____

Time: _____

Minutes watched	How many flower visits?

You can write any notes / questions about your pollinators here:

4. See if you can find an insect we have *not* mentioned in your yard or plot and draw it here. Do you have a guess of what it is?