



“Pisay” and Pollinators

**Are we on the right path to a
pollinator-friendly campus?**

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Initially, when the campus was starting out, the school hired a third-party landscaping company to do the landscaping in front of the school and in a few spaces in the campus. After that, they hired gardeners for the upkeep of the grounds. The school does not have regular landscaping done anymore.



I managed to interview Mr. Antonio Eraldo who was the head gardener of the school to find out about the plants and how they are taken cared of.

I often see small butterflies and a few bees when I wait to be fetched from school so I know some plants that are pollinator-friendly in our school like the Santan, Yellow alder, purple skyflower and a few others.



According to Mr. Eraldo, the school sources out plants from a nearby local garden plants supplier. They usually come in as seedlings and the gardeners propagate the plants once they have grown in one area.

There are still areas that can be further developed into pollinator-friendly places like the place we call “forest” beside the Residence Hall and in the areas surrounding the buildings and the soccer field, as well.

Our school does not use any pesticides on the plants.



Let's investigate!



The landscaping and upkeep of the grounds in our campus, I have come to learn, is more of an informal thing. There are gardeners hired to clean, water and re-plant the plants around the area. I managed to interview the head gardener, Mr. Antonio Eraldo.

Talking to Mr. Eraldo, I learned that the school does not have a compost pit. It does, however, order garden soil, compost and animal manure from a local supplier just nearby the campus. The plants are all locally sourced, usually coming in as seedlings. They are then spread all over the campus, via cutting or marcotting, once the first plants start to really grow.

The gardeners do not use pesticides or chemical fertilizers for the plants. They haven't done so for many years now. However, at the very start of the landscaping, the school did use fertilizers for the flowering plants.

I was pleasantly surprised that the school uses compost and manure and does not use pesticides. I do want to have a compost pit in the school, though.

It would be good to have regular pollinator-friendly plants be added in the school grounds. There are still areas that could use a facelift in their landscape for both aesthetic and utility purposes.

“Pisay Pollinator Plan”



Philippine Science High School (Pisay) acknowledges the importance of pollinators. The school community is also aware of the threat posed against these amazing creatures. This plan is formulated so that the school may help, in its little way, in protecting the pollinators.

MOTIVATION

- Film showing about pollinators' importance and population decline
- Ask students to make artworks about the amazing pollinators

INFORMATION

- Research on what plants are pollinator friendly.
- Find out how to build pollinator habitats within the campus.

ACTION

- Include pollinator habitats in the landscaping plan
- Let students develop areas and plant plants to make them pollinator-friendly

DISSEMINATION

- Record progress through photos and videos
- Share the "Pisay Pollinator Project" in social media
- Invite other schools to come and see what the school has done so that they could do the same.

