Protecting Native Pollinators at Viva Farms!

Viva Farms recognizes the importance of native pollinators to the health of their local agriculture and regional ecosystem. Here are some of the practices we are doing at Viva Farms to help support pollinator populations:

- Certified Organic

  We do not use prohibited substances that are harmful to pollinators, such as GMOs, neonicotinoids, or synthetic pesticides.

- Cover crops such as buckwheat, clover, rye, and vetch serve as good pollinator forage.

- Willow hedges and perennial native flower plots provide forage and habitat for bees.

- Small wooded area where we actively leave stumps and other debris for pollinator habitat.

- Partner in the BEEvesting project and have about 10 mason bee boxes on farm to support mason bees each year

About Native Pollinators

Protecting Native Pollinators at Home

Protecting Native Pollinators on Your Farm

Actions of the Wider Community

For More Information

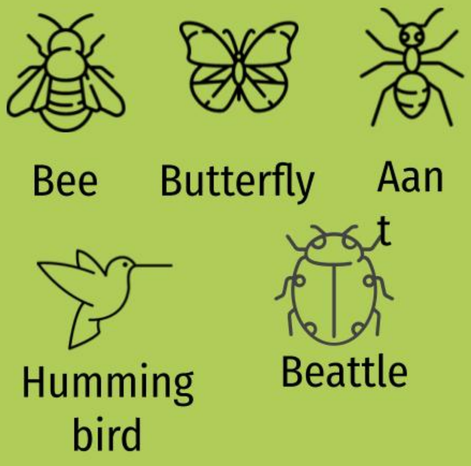
Importance of Native Pollinators!

Pollinators are essential to our ecosystems and maintain the diversity of many plants and animals.

The Buzz pollination Effect!

The blue orchard bee and numerous bumblebees are keystone pollinators. They are important not because they produce honey, but because they are vital to flowers that need vibrations released from the wings of these bees

Some Examples of Native Pollinators



The buzz pollination effect allows over 1,300 different types of plants around the world to reproduce!

Pollinators are in Danger

Scientists found that globally 1 in 6 bee species are extinct and roughly 40% are at risk of extinction.

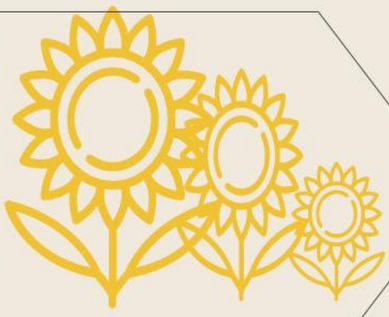
Other driving factors of endangerment:

- *include climate-driven sea-level rise*
- *80% of natural habits are lost due to agricultural intensification, heavy use of pesticides, and urbanization.*
- *increased global temperature trends*
- *loss of host plants*
- *competition from non-native species*

How to Protect our Native Pollinators!




Grow More Gardens!
Say YES to diversity. Include native species that need pollination and consider plants that bloom all season long.



Create Open Water Sources! Pollinators can travel up to ½ of a mile and need water to make it back home.

Leave the Leaves! In the fall, leave piles provide a winter oasis for our Pollinator friends! This will help them to come back strong in the Spring.

Eat Organic! Synthetic pesticides harm pollinators. Organic Farming practices use natural ways of deflecting only disruptive pests.

Know your Farmer!
Find a local farmer whose farming methods protect Native Pollinators, and align with your values

Protecting Native Pollinators On Your Farm!

Know your land!
Learn more about potential habitats on or around your land that can support native pollinators.

Create a native landscape!
Growing a diversity of native plants in hedgerows or field borders provides windbreak protection and foraging opportunities.

Minimize tillage and pesticide use! Many pollinators live underground for most of the year, so turning over soil only when you need to protects their habitats. Most insecticides are deadly to pollinators and herbicides can remove many of the flowers they use for food.

Protect flowering plants and nest sites!
Letting flowering crops bolt and leaving twigs, debris, and dead logs out provide additional food sources and nesting sites.

Spread the word! Share what you've learned and encourage fellow farmers to help protect native pollinators with you!

Actions of the Wider Community!

Pollinator Pathway: Seattle's Pollinator Pathway is a collaborative design project where:

- Individuals research, build & design gardens
- Plants used are native & chosen for pollinator appeal
- Communities come together for garden parties, events and gardening days

http://www.pollinatorpathway.com/active-projects/the-first-pathway/#top

POLLINATOR PATHWAY®

Earth Corps Puget Sound Region focuses on:

- Providing the best management practices for native pollinators
- Tailoring practices as educational tools for farmers, gardeners, land managers, teachers, students and homeowners

https://www.greenseattle.org/the-native-pollinator-habitat-restoration-guide/.

LOCAL RESTORATION EARTH CORPS GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

GREEN SEATTLE PARTNERSHIP

Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) continues to:

- **preserve** native habitat
- **manage** roadsides for natural succession
- **restore** project disturbance
- **collaborate** with communities to promote health of pollinators

https://www.wsdot.wa.gov/publications/fulltext/Roadside/PollinatorsFactSheet.pdf

WSDOT

Learn More About Native Pollinators!

Native pollinators are not only important contributors directly to our food security, but also key to biodiversity within our ecosystem.

We all depend on native pollinators, therefore, it is crucial to monitor their decline and halt the loss of biodiversity.

Importance of Native Pollinators

➤ https://plants.usda.gov/pollinators/Native_Pollinators.pdf

USDA NRCS

FAO's Global Action on Pollination Services for Sustainable Agriculture

➤ http://www.fao.org/pollination/en/

Key Findings of Native Pollinator Decline

➤ https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2017/bees-03-01-2017.php

World Bee Day: May 20

➤ https://www.un.org/en/observances/bee-day

Attract Native Pollinators to Your Home

➤ https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/documents/AttractingPollinatorsV5.pdf

Xerces Society

Pollinator Conservation

➤ https://www.xerces.org/pollinator-conservation

Beevesting Project - Mason Bee Boxes

➤ https://21acres.org/21-acres-blog/2019/06/21-acres-prioritizes-beekeeping-for-woodinville-agriculture/