



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

June 20-26, 2022

California Pollinator Week

California is blessed with unique topography and biodiversity, home to an array of ecosystems that support thousands of different species of pollinating animals that are critical to ecosystem services as well as human health and well-being. The birds, insects and other pollinators that assist plants with their reproduction are essential to the state's diverse ecosystems and agricultural production.

Pollinators are key partners to farmers in producing much of California's food supply. Fresh produce, including California-grown fruits, vegetables and nuts, provide important micronutrients and antioxidants. The top antioxidant fruits, such as red grapes, peaches, raspberries, strawberries, cherries, pears, oranges, apricots, cantaloupe, watermelon and tomatoes, all require animal pollination.

Pollination also plays a vital role in the health of California's ecosystems, like forests and grasslands, which provide forage, fish and wildlife, timber, water, mineral resources, and recreational opportunities as well as enhanced economic development opportunities for communities up and down the state. Because 75 percent of all flowering plants rely on pollinators for reproduction, pollinators are directly responsible for providing significant environmental benefits needed to maintain healthy, biodiverse ecosystems. Pollinators play a role in many critical ecosystem services, including climate regulation, erosion control and water and nutrient cycling.

The State of California has managed wildlife habitats and public lands for decades and provides producers with assistance to promote wise ecosystem stewardship, including the protection and support of pollinators and their habitats on natural and working lands. There has never been a better time for the working and wildlands of California to include pollinator habitat and to celebrate the leading land management practices that keep pollinator populations healthy and sustainable.

This week, I encourage all Californians to learn about the essential contributions of pollinator species to our ecosystems, communities, and state as a whole.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom", written over a horizontal line.

Gavin Newsom