



KEY ACTIONS FOR WATERMELON PRODUCTION

The following actions are essential for sustaining suitable pollinator habitats:

- Offer flowering diversity with continuous bloom spanning the growing season. *
- Provide sites for nesting pollinator species. *
- Develop a thorough IPM program to reduce pesticide use.
- Maintain good communication with beekeepers regarding pesticide applications.

For references and additional resources, scan here



SCAN ME

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AGRICULTURE SUPPORTING POLLINATORS: **WATERMELON PRODUCTION**

POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP

Created with support from Syngenta

Practices for use at all scales of production.

This guide is intended for growers and applicators supporting pollinators and pollination services in field-grown watermelon production systems. Watermelon producers have the ability to support pollinator health.

WATERMELON POLLINATION

For successful watermelon production, pollinators must facilitate pollen transfer. Honey bees are one example of efficient, easily managed pollinators. They spend an average of 6.8 seconds visiting a female flower, suggesting individual flowers are rich in resources²⁹. Fruitful fertilization requires at least 1,000 pollen grains across the flower's three stigma lobes, necessitating a minimum of 8 honey bee visits per flower^{29,30}. The recommended honey bee stocking rate is 0.2-5 hives/acre. Bumble bees, another efficiently managed pollinator, have the recommended stocking rate of 0.5-3 colonies/acre. Where wild bees are abundant, stocking managed bees may be unnecessary or reduced^{4,34,35,36}.

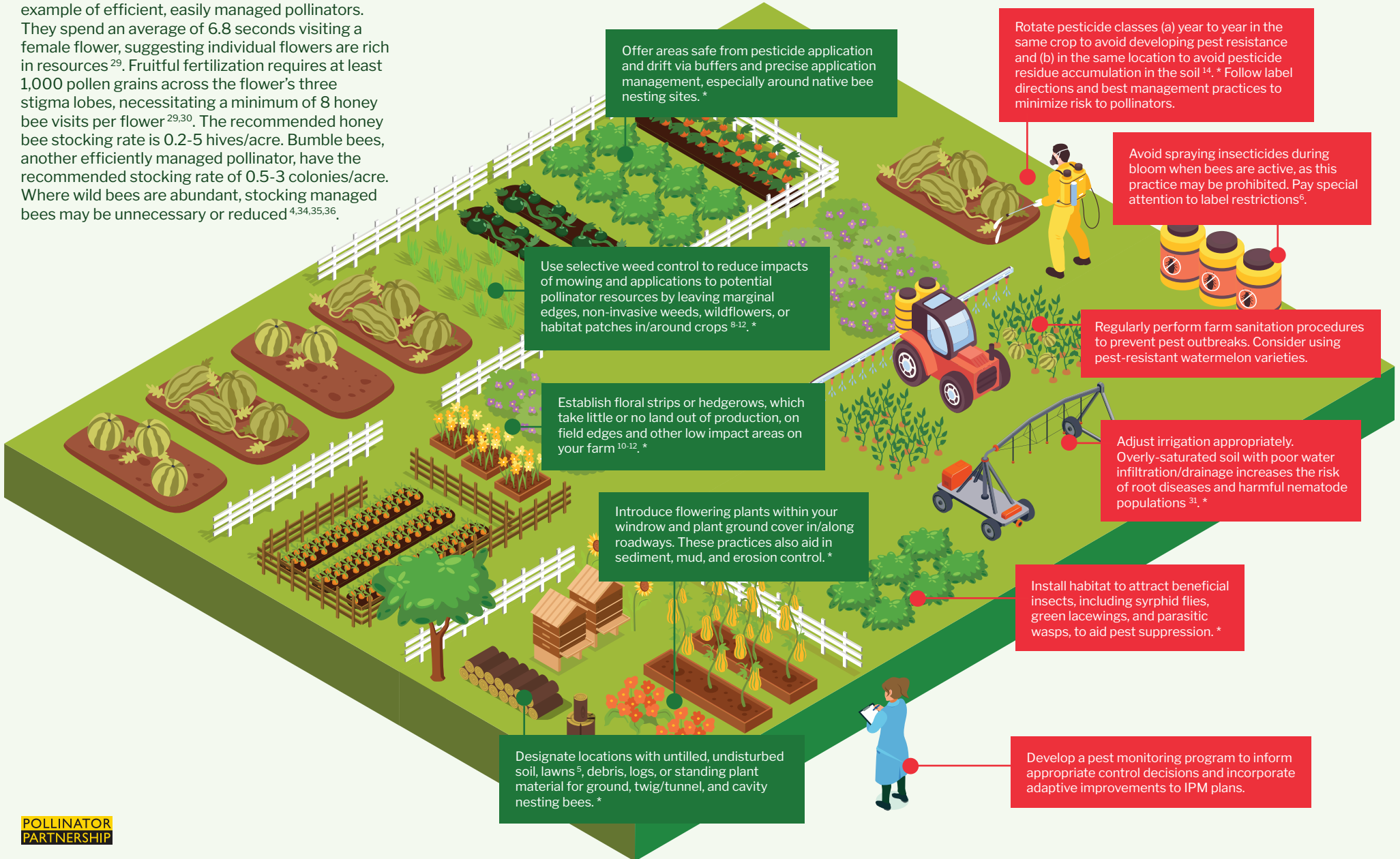
ON-FARM ACTION GUIDE

Habitat and forage

Establishing habitat provisions on your farm is crucial for supporting pollinators⁷⁻¹⁰. Consider these elements when incorporating pollinator habitat into your farming operation:

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

IPM invests in long-term, preventative practices through ecosystem function. Below is a list of strategies you can use to manage pests and mitigate risks to pollinators:



* This strategy aligns with regenerative agricultural practices.