



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUN 17 2022

THE ADMINISTRATOR

NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK

June 20-26, 2022

PROCLAMATION

Pollination of plants is vital to a healthy environment, which in turn provides crucial natural resources for the nation, including fish and wildlife and abundant public recreational opportunities. Pollination also plays a critical role in supporting the nation's farmers and ranchers to enable sustainable and diverse agriculture, providing economic benefits and strengthening our nation's food system.

Bees, butterflies, birds and bats and other pollinators provide environmental benefits by facilitating plant reproduction and thriving plant communities that contribute to healthy air, water, soils and ecosystems.

Awareness and education about the significance of pollinators and their habitats that can be found across America's urban and rural areas are instrumental to the wellbeing of pollinator species.

A combination of factors, including habitat loss, climate change, invasive species, pests, diseases and risks from pesticides, have led to population and health declines for many pollinator species.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's mission is to protect human health and the environment. The EPA, in collaboration with federal partners, continues to advance scientific knowledge and make significant contributions to the understanding and assessment of pesticide risks to pollinators.

Collaboration is one foundation of the EPA's comprehensive Endangered Species Act workplan, which outlines the agency's commitment to protecting all endangered species, including pollinators, from pesticides. The workplan identifies four overarching strategies and dozens of actions, such as a federal pilot project with other agencies to expeditiously mitigate for pesticide impacts to certain species. Through this pilot, the agencies will develop protections for those species, including pollinators such as the rusty patched bumblebee, and apply lessons learned to other species and chemicals.

Furthermore, the EPA continues to improve strategies to reduce pesticide exposure and mitigate potential risks to pollinators from pesticides, through ongoing registration and registration review actions as well as collaborative partnerships.

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of the importance of pollinators to healthy ecosystems and sustainable, diverse agriculture, I, Michael S. Regan, Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, do hereby proclaim June 20-26, 2022, as National Pollinator Week at the EPA. I call upon the people of the United States to join me in celebrating the significance of pollinators with appropriate observances and activities.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael S. Regan".

MICHAEL S. REGAN