From the beginning of time

When Allah laid out his grand design, it was
MADE FOR YOU THE EARTH A RESTING PLACE,
AND THE HEAVEN AN EDIFICE FOR PROTECTION,
AND CAUSED WATER TO POUR DOWN FROM
THE CLOUDS. THEN HE BROUGHT YOU FORTH
THEREWITH A GREAT VARIETY OF FRUIT FOR YOUR
SUSTENANCE
(Al-Baqarah 3:22).

Along with the bounty of food and medicine
that grew from the Earth he created, Allah also
bestowed a host of living things to tend the growth
and propagation of good plants. In other words,
he gave us the gift of specialized species known as
pollinators.

Pollination happens when pollen is carried to flowers
by wind, water, or pollinating animals such as birds,
bees, bats, butterflies, moths, and beetles.

Are pollinators in trouble?

Worldwide there is disturbing evidence that
pollinating animals have suffered from disease,
parasites, pesticides, loss of habitat, and competition
from non-native plant and animal species.
• The U.S. has lost over 50 percent of its managed
honeybee colonies over the past 20 years.
• Many pollinators are federally listed species,
meaning that there is evidence of their
disappearance in natural areas.

Why should our congregation care about pollinators?

Pollinators bring us nearly one of every three bites of food we eat and are vital in
the procreation of nearly 80 percent of the flowering plants on the planet. Worldwide,
roughly 1,000 of the 1,200 plant species
grown for food, beverages, fibers, spices, and
medicines need to be pollinated by animals.
These foods include apples, blueberries,
chocolate, coffee, melons, peaches, pumpkins,
vanilla, and almonds. In fact, in the U.S.,
pollination by honey bees, native bees, and
other insects produces $40 billion worth of
products annually.

There is an entire chapter of the Qur’an that
bears the name of a pollinator—Al-Nahal, the
Bee. It contains many verses celebrating Allah’s
blessings, including the bountiful gardens that
sustain and heal us:

AND YOUR LORD INSPIRED THE BEES
(saying), ‘MAKE YOUR HIVES IN THE HILLS
AND IN THE TREES AND IN THE TRELlISES
WHICH THE PEOPLE ERECT, (AL-NAHAl, 9:68)

And, for the gift of honey that they bestow:
THERE COMES FORTH FROM THEIR INSIDES
A FINE FLUID OF VARYING HUES WHICH IS A
CURE FOR THE PEOPLE. (AL-NAHAl, 9:69)

Honey is a nourishing food and medicine that
imparts many healthful benefits. The Prophet
himself made note of its worth, saying:
HONEY IS A REMEDY FOR EVERY ILLNESS AND
THE QUR’AN IS A REMEDY FOR ALL ILLNESS
OF THE MIND, THEREFORE I RECOMMEND TO
YOU BOTH REMEDIES,
THE QUR’AN AND HONEY. (Bukhari)

Please visit
www.pollinator.org
www.thetributaryfund.org
to see how much you can do.

The North American Pollinator Protection
Campaign (NAPPC) is a collaborative body
of over 140 organizations that work for the
protection of pollinators across Mexico, Canada
and the United States.
The NAPPC Faith Task Force produced this
brochure. Feedback is welcome. For more
information please call 415-362-1137 or visit
www.pollinator.org.
How to get involved

Pollinators need our help. Luckily there are many things your congregation and youth group can do. Here are a few ideas...

- Mosque grounds offer a great place to plant a pollinator garden to attract and offer habitat for pollinators. Gardens allow adequate food, shelter, and water sources. You can introduce a diversity of plants to support a variety of pollinators. Flowers of different color, fragrance, and season of bloom will attract different pollinator species and provide pollen and nectar throughout the seasons. For more ideas on gardens: www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/gardening.shtml

- Research and select plants that provide nectar and larval food for pollinators. Access the free Ecoregional Pollinator Planting Guide at www.pollinator.org/guides.htm.

- Plant, water and observe your garden. Notice pollinators that visit and note the flowers that they like. Share your observations with www.pollinator.org

- Build bee boxes to encourage solitary, non-aggressive bees to nest on mosque property. For instructions on building bee boxes: www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/beebox.shtml

- Have a pollinator themed dinner during Ramadan. Celebrate food, flowers, biodiversity, mizan (nature) and tawhid (creation).

- Have your Imam host a pollinator-themed study of the Qur’an, discussing what can be learned from the wisdom in the chapter of Al-Nahal, and other relevant passages.

Ideas for our community

- Have a celebration. Break ground on your garden. Talk about healthy gardening practices and the benefits of locally produced foods. Suggest to your congregants a reduction in pesticide use and ideas for substituting flowerbeds and native grasses for lawns.

- Enjoy the wonders of creation!

And earth - He set it down for all beings, therein fruits and palm trees with sheaths, and grain in the blade, and fragrant herbs. Of which your Lord’s bounties will you and you deny? Qur’an 55: 1-12