



# Pollinator Related Vocabulary

## A

- **Abdomen:** the last part of an insect. This part contains all of the internal organs and also the stinger in female bees. Some bees will carry pollen of the bottom of their abdomen
- **Adapt:** to grow and change in response to environmental conditions
- **Adaptation:** special body features or behaviors adapted to the environment
- **Agriculture:** the science and art of cultivating soil, producing crops, and raising livestock, and the distribution of the food or fiber product
- **Antennae:** the smelling organs of a bee that allow it to detect flora perfumes
- **Anther:** the tip of the stamen, this holds pollen

## B

- **Balanced Diet:** a diet that has the right amount of nutrients and proportions of the different food groups needed to maintain a healthy body
- **Beneficial:** favorable or advantageous
- **Biodiversity:** the diverse variety of life forms of plants, animals, and micro-organisms and the ecosystems they form
- **Brood:** the developing bee larvae

## C

- **Callow:** a newly hatched adult worker bee.
- **Carnivore:** (secondary consumer) animals that don't eat plants, but feed on animals that do eat plants
- **Crops:** plants grown and harvested through agriculture
- **Cucurbit:** a plant in the gourd family (Cucurbitaceae), which includes melon, pumpkin, squash, and cucumber
- **Cultivate:** to prepare and maintain land for raising crops

## D

- **Decomposer:** animal that breaks down dead or decomposing plant
- **Desert:** a region of land that receives very little rain

- **Drone:** the male bees produced by the queen that do not work in the hive; they eventually leave the hive to mate with other queen bees

## E

- **Ecosystem:** a community of living and non-living things that live and work together
- **Egg:** the first life stage of a bee
- **Embryo:** earliest stage of plant development, comprised of tiny plant parts that are contained within the outer seed coat
- **Endangered:** animal or plant species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range due loss of habitat, overexploitation, competition or disease
- **Endosperm:** fleshy part of a seed and the food source for the developing embryo
- **Environment:** complex web of inter-relationships between living organisms and non-living components, which sustain all life on earth
- **Eyes:** the part of the head bees use to see, all bees have 5

## F

- **Fauna:** all of the animals found in an area
- **Filament:** the stalk that bears the stamen in a flower
- **Flora:** all of the plants found in an area
- **Flower:** reproductive structure of a plant
- **Food web:** a group of interlinked food chains. Involves herbivores, omnivores, carnivores, scavengers and decomposers, so that no available source of energy is allowed to go to waste
- **Forage:** a food resource that a bee feeds on, commonly pollen and nectar.
- **Forager:** a worker whose job is to leave the hive and collect pollen and nectar
- **Forested:** a region of land filled with many trees that has hot summers and cold winters
- **Frost:** when the temperature falls below freezing and small ice crystals form on the ground and plants
- **Fruit:** fleshy part of the plant that is often edible. It usually has seeds inside, and is the result of a fertilized flower. Fruits develop from a ripened ovary

## H

- **Habitat:** a place that contains all the essential elements that an organism needs to survive (food, water, shelter)
- **Harvest:** the process of gathering crops
- **Head:** the part of the insect that contains the eyes, antennae, and mouth parts
- **Herbivore:** (primary consumer) animals that eat primarily plants
- **Hive:** a special type of nest build but a group of colonial social bees, such as honey bees or bumble bees

**L**

- **Larvae:** the second life stage of a bee
- **Leaf:** the plant organ that specializes in photosynthesis (turning sunlight into energy for the plant)
- **Legs:** the appendages that bees and other insects use to walk

**M**

- **Metamorphosis:** the process of change from young to adult
- **Migration:** the seasonal, usually 2-way movement from habitat to another to avoid unfavorable climatic conditions

**N**

- **Native:** indigenous to and dwelling within a specific area for an entire lifespan
- **Nectar:** sweet liquid produced by plants, usually located in the flowers
- **Nest:** the location where a bee lays an egg or series of eggs
- **Nurse:** a worker whose job is to take care of the young larvae
- **Nutrients:** essential vitamins and minerals that organisms get through consuming food

**O**

- **Ovary:** female part of the flower that holds the eggs for fertilization, and where seeds develop

**P**

- **Petal:** colorful flower parts that surround the floral reproductive structures
- **Photosynthesis:** the process plants use to convert the sun's energy into food
- **Pistil:** female reproductive part of a flower that moves the pollen into the ovule
- **Plains:** a region of land that is flat
- **Plant:** a living being that possessing cell walls and generally can produce it's own food or energy from photosynthesis
- **Pollen:** yellowish, dust-like powder that carries the elements for the fertilization of flower's egg
- **Pollen basket:** a flat and fuzzy part of a bee's hind leg that is used to carry pollen
- **Pollen tube:** tube formed after germination of the pollen grain
- **Pollinated:** a flower in which the female parts of a flower have received pollen from the male parts of the same flower, or another flower
- **Pollination:** when pollen of a flower are moved into contact with the female reproductive parts of the same type of flower, resulting in fertilization
- **Pollinator:** animal that carries pollen from the male parts of flowers to the female parts, fertilizing plant "eggs" with plant "sperm"

- **Pollinator-dependent:** plants that depend on animal pollinators to be pollinated so they develop seeds and fruit
- **Primary consumer:** an organism that obtains energy from primary producers
- **Primary producer:** all food chains begin with green plants (“primary producers”) with a process called photosynthesis. Energy from the sun lands on plants and is collected by chlorophyll, with which plants make sugar and oxygen, food for other animals
- **Proboscis:** protruding mouthpart of an animal. In animals such as a bee or butterfly, it is designed for drinking nectar
- **Pupae:** the third life stage of a bee where the larvae transforms into an adult

## Q

- **Queen:** the largest bee in the hive and the mother of all of the bees in the hive

## R

- **Root:** the part of the plant usually found below the soil. Plant roots absorb water and minerals from the soil, anchors the plant in place, and stores food and nutrients

## S

- **Scout:** a worker whose job it is to find new sources of pollen and nectar for the hive
- **Seasonal resources:** food resources that are available at a specific time of year
- **Secondary consumer:** a consumer that obtains energy from other consumers
- **Seed coat:** Protective outer layer of a seed, incasing the embryonic plant and stored food
- **Seed:** a reproductive structure containing a tiny plant with a store of food and incased in a seed coat, formed after a flower has been pollinated.
- **Sepals:** the green leaf-like parts of a flower that enclose the petals (often found at the base of the petals)
- **Shelter:** protection from weather, predators and other dangers; provides warmth and light as needed
- **Social bee:** a bee that lives in a colony or group of other bees within one nest
- **Soil:** a natural substance composed of inorganic and organic material, water, air, and living organisms, which supports plants, animals, and microorganisms
- **Solitary bee:** a bee that lives alone and works alone to make a nest
- **Solitary:** an organism that lives alone
- **Sprout:** the first parts of a young plant to immerge from the seed
- **Stamen:** male reproductive part of a flower that holds and makes pollen
- **Stem:** the main above ground structure of a plant that transports water and minerals up and down the plant and to newly formed plant parts

- **Stigma:** the top part of the pistil, which is often sticky in order to trap the pollen
- **Style:** the slender part of a flower's pistil

## T

- **Temperate:** a region of land that has moderate temperatures, rather than very hot or very cold
- **Thorax:** the middle part of the insect where the wings and legs are attached
- **Threatened:** species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future, without special protection and management efforts
- **Tropical:** a region of land that only has dry periods or wet periods
- **Tundra:** a very cold region of land that does not contain trees

## V

- **Vegetable:** non-woody plant or plant parts
- **Vine:** a plant with thin stems that climbs along other structures

## W

- **Wings:** the appendages that bees and other insects use to fly
- **Worker:** all of the female bees in the hive that are not the queen. Each worker has a unique task associated with its age

