



**STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

All across Texas the work of pollinators is evident, from the first ripe seasonal fruits and vegetables to the natural splendor of our state during wildflower season. Pollinator species consist mostly of insects like bees, beetles, ants, and butterflies. Birds, bats, hummingbirds, and small mammals such as mice, are also essential partners of farmers and ranchers in producing and sustaining much of our food supply, helping ensure our future prosperity across our state, nation, and world. The benefits of pollinators are diverse and are felt throughout our food industry and the places we seek recreation and natural resources.

A substantial part of our food supply is made up of crops that consist of flowering plants that depend on pollinators to reproduce. Without pollinators, these essential crops would not exist, and the production of many essential foods and resources, as well as the livelihoods of our ranchers and farmers, would be jeopardized. In the United States alone, \$20 billion worth of products produced annually depends on the pollination process carried out by honey bees and other insects. These products include resources beyond food, including fibers, spices, and medicines.

Pollinators are essential to maintaining healthy, biodiverse ecosystems and supporting the well-being of managed wildlife habitats and public lands, including state and national forests and grasslands. These precious environments provide forage for fish and wildlife, timber, water, mineral resources, and recreational opportunities, enhance economic development opportunities for communities across Texas, and rely on pollinators to maintain their habitats on working lands and wildlands. In order to ensure these ecosystems and our economy continue to prosper, we must protect these important species.

During June, a week is dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of pollinators. Across Texas, individuals, organizations, and communities work to educate the public about the unseen labor of our invaluable pollinators and how they contribute to the future success of the Lone Star State.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to learn more about how pollinators maintain the food we eat and the land we love, as well as about the roles they play in supporting our daily lives. By ensuring the future of our state's pollinators, we can help build a better future for Texas for generations to come.

Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim June 20 – 26, 2022, to be

Pollinator Week



in Texas and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,
I hereby affix my signature this the
9th day of May, 2022.

A handwritten signature of Greg Abbott in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Governor of Texas