



# Pollinator Protection Resources

LWV ABC

December 2014

: League of Women Voters ABC (Anoka, Blaine, Coon Rapids Area)



# POLLINATOR PROTECTION RESOURCES: LWV ABC RESOURCES FOR ADVOCACY

## WHAT IF NOTHING IS DONE TO SAFEGUARD MINNESOTA'S POLLINATORS?

Pollinators are essential to our environment. The ecological service they provide is necessary for the reproduction of over 85 percent of the world's flowering plants, including more than two-thirds of the world's crop species. The United States alone grows more than one hundred crops that either need or benefit from pollinators, and the economic value of these native pollinators is estimated at \$3 billion per year in the U.S.

A lot of attention has been focused recently on the plight of honeybees. The bees used to pollinate commercial crops and produce the honey we use every day are dying at an alarming rate. Many people do not know that these honeybees are not native to North America. They are vital pollinators for many commercial crops, but our native pollinators are critical for crops like cranberries and blueberries, as well as for their essential role in most terrestrial ecosystems. Fruits and seeds derived from insect pollination are a major part of the diet of approximately 25 percent of all birds, and of mammals ranging from red-backed voles to grizzly bears. In many places, the essential service of pollination is at risk from habitat loss, pesticide use, and introduced diseases.

The main threats facing pollinators are habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation. As native vegetation is replaced by roadways, manicured lawns, crops and non-native gardens, pollinators lose the food and nesting sites that are necessary for their survival. Pollinators need good quality food throughout the spring, summer and fall to be successful.

Migratory pollinators like Monarch butterflies face special challenges. If the distance between the suitable habitat patches along their migration route is too great, smaller, weaker individuals may die during their journey. The improper use of pesticides can also negatively impact pollinators and their habitats.

The loss of pollinators is a serious problem that needs to be addressed now. This document introduces the who, what, where, how, and especially the why pollinators do what they do. As gardeners, growers, farmers and concerned stewards of the land LWV members want answers and to raise good produce for family and table. Experts have found many contributing factors including accident, bee biology, disease, pesticides, habitat loss and climate change. So what can we do to help Bees and other pollinators?

- \* Promote good pollinator and bee health in your own back yard by planting a variety of flowers in gardens, pots and beds free of systemic pesticides.
- \* Encourage our local governments to adopt ordinances and practices that protect pollinators.
- \* Encourage nurseries and garden centers to label any products containing systemic pesticides, especially those from the neonicotinoid family of systems pesticides and to supply a diverse and constant supply of "clean" systemic-free, neonic-free flowering plants for pollinators through-out the year.
- \* Reduce usage of pesticides, and chemicals containing neonicotinoid bio-chemicals which can accumulate in insects and may cause harm or death.
- \* Support others working to protect pollinators, especially the University of Minnesota's Bee Lab and distinguished entomologist, Professor Marla Spivak and Pesticide Action Network ([www.panna.org](http://www.panna.org)).

This document is a work-in-progress. It will grow as our work progresses and we learn more. Use this reference as a source for ideas and information as you work on pollinator protection!

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Also, be sure to check in frequently at <http://www.hummingforbees.org/> - this is the website for Humming for Bees, the organization started by Patricia Hauser and her husband. This is the source of excellent information!



## TALKING ABOUT POLLINATORS WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

These topics are drafted for use in advocating with cities; feedback from the city Bee Teams that are being organized is needed to refine this list.

Pollinators are in trouble around the world. Loss of habitat, pesticides, disease and more contribute to pollinator deaths and population decline. To combat this decline, LWV ABC and partners are asking our local cities to examine their ordinances and practices, and come up with a plan to enhance pollinator habitat throughout our area. Some questions to ask when talking with local governments:

Is bee-keeping encouraged in your city?

Does your city have an ordinance that allows native plantings in front yards as part of or instead of lawns?

Has your city worked to establish native plants on city lands and road right-of-ways?

How can your city work to turn public spaces into Bee-Safe areas?

Does your city use insecticides, fungicides or herbicides in parks or other public areas?

Would your city support youth groups and others who want to plant areas of native plants on city land?

Would your city consider including information in the city newsletter to educate citizens on how to provide additional pollinator habitat and avoid use of pesticides?

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Would your city council appreciate a presentation by LWV ABC and our partners on pollinator protection?

### SOURCES OF NATIVE PLANTS

- The Anoka Conservation District offers tree seedlings, shrubs and native seeds every spring: even to those who live outside Anoka County. [http://www.anokaswcd.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=143&Itemid=603](http://www.anokaswcd.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=143&Itemid=603)
- The Friends Plant Sale is an exciting event at the State Fair Grounds on Mothers Day Weekend! They do not allow plants to be sold that have been treated with neonicotinoids. <http://www.friendsschoolplantsale.com/>
- Thanks to Jeorgette Knoll for assembling the following list of sources of native and non-neonicotinoid treated plants!

### Landscape Alternatives!

**Retail • Wholesale • Public is Welcome**

Landscape Alternatives, Inc. offers a wide selection of high quality, nursery grown native wildflowers, grasses and other low maintenance perennials. Our St. Croix Valley nursery is easy to reach from several major highways.

Our specialty is providing native plants original to sources within 100 miles of the Twin Cities Metro area of Minnesota. We may, due to market conditions, have to provide plants from sources farther away. In all cases we will choose the closest source available and all plants will be hardy and suitable to the general climate of the Twin Cities Metropolitan area.

Complete plant list is available on website: <http://www.landscapealternatives.com/>

25316 St. Croix Trail

Shafer, MN 55074

Phone: 651-257-4460

[landscapealt@frontiernet.net](mailto:landscapealt@frontiernet.net)



Since 1977, Prairie Restorations, Inc. has passionately led the way in the fascinating business of native plant community restoration.

Educating property owners about the benefits of restoring native landscapes is at the soul of what we do at PRI. You'll find a [Resource Library](#) on this site and our knowledgeable, helpful staff is always eager to share what we've learned over the years.

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We are proud to offer local ecotype Native Seed and Plant materials that are produced at our facilities and ensuring quality and authenticity. (Continued on next page.)

Prairie Restorations Inc.  
31646 128th Street,  
Princeton, MN 55371

Several locations including Princeton and Scandia, Minnesota.

Complete plant list is available on website: <http://www.prairieresto.com/>

### Natural Shore

We are a design-build ecological restoration company with our office and greenhouse in the Twin Cities. Our staff has a genuine passion for Minnesota's ecosystems.

Our retail nursery stocks Minnesota Native Plant Brand™ plants.

#### MN Native Plant Brand

- Assures plant species are native to Minnesota, based on MNDNR plant community lists.
- Plants are propagated from local seed sources.
- All plant material is healthy, robust and grown in local greenhouses.

*Natural Shore Mailing Address : 6275 Pagenkopf Rd. Maple Plain, MN 55359*

*Office/Nursery Address: 5300 Hwy 12 Maple Plain, MN 612-703-7581*

[info@naturalshore.com](mailto:info@naturalshore.com)

Plant list is available on website: <http://naturalshore.com/>

## EnergyScapes

Planning, Transforming & Nurturing Native Landscapes

EnergyScapes has more than 25 years of experience creating beautiful spaces in the Twin Cities metro area. Their disciplined methodology and design incorporates long-lived, native plants that store carbon in their roots and woody trunks, require little water once established, and support native birds and pollinators with their seeds, nectar and berries. These benefits work collectively to reduce pollution and create new habitats.

<http://www.energyscapes.com/>

Beautifully Sustainable by Douglas Owens-Pike

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A comprehensive field-guide to converting your landscape into a sustainable ecosystem that will utilize the natural resilience and beauty of native plant communities. Learn to convert your lawn to a more sustainable habitat, build a rain garden, attract pollinators, and so much more. Based on 25 years experience in sustainable landscaping, this important book moves us a long way towards establishing a new landscape based on succeeding ecologically.

- Additional resources, thanks to Humming for Bees ([www.hummingforbees.org](http://www.hummingforbees.org)):

### Sources for Natives and Untreated Plants

**Egg Plant Urban Farm Supply**, 1771 Selby Ave, St. Paul, 651-645-0818: [eggplantsupply.com](http://eggplantsupply.com). Egg Plant carries seeds from Seed Savers in Decorah, Iowa; Renee's Garden in California, and Botanical Interests in Colorado, all of which sell conventional and organic seeds. The company also sells fruit trees, shrubs, berries from Bailey's Nurseries (some treated), and plants from Rush Creek Growers. *Ask questions about specific plants.*

**Glacial Ridge Growers**, Glenwood, Minn., 320-634-0136 or 866-518-1671: [glacialridgegrowers.com](http://glacialridgegrowers.com). Glacial Ridge sales wholesale to nurseries, food co-ops, garden centers, fundraisers and farmer's markets. They use no insecticides, herbicides, growth retardants or GM seeds. They use predatory insects for pest control.

**Gardens of Eagan**, Northfield, Minn., 507-645-2544: [info@gardensofeagan.com](mailto:info@gardensofeagan.com). For cut flowers, contact [jennifer@humblepiefarm.com](mailto:jennifer@humblepiefarm.com). Gardens of Eagan has an outstanding reputation and is certified organic. The company grows all its seeds. The seeds and plants are not treated. They supply farmer's markets and food co-ops.

**Hampden Park Co-op**, Raymond and Hampden avenues, St. Anthony Park, 651-646-6686: [hampdenparkcoop.com](http://hampdenparkcoop.com). Hampden park sells plants from Glacial Ridge Growers— no pretreatments, no pesticides. Glacial Ridge uses predatory insects for pest control.

**Landscape Alternatives**, 25316 St. Croix Trail, Shafer, Minn., 651-257-4460: [landscapealternatives.com](http://landscapealternatives.com). Landscape Alternatives is an excellent source for natives and the owner knows his natives.

**Mother Earth Gardens**, 3738 42nd Ave. S., Minneapolis, 612-724-2296, and 2318 N.E. Lowry Ave., Minneapolis, 612-789-0796: [motherearthgarden.com](http://motherearthgarden.com). Plants are grown by Rush Creek Growers. *Ask questions about specific plants.*



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**Prairie Moon**, 32115 Prairie Lane, Winona, Minn., 866-417-8156: [info@prairiemoon.com](mailto:info@prairiemoon.com). Many seeds are collected from wild natives; others are from seed companies. Prairie Moon propagates some plants; others are contracted from trusted local independent growers. No neonicotinoid systemic pesticides. *They do use some pyrethroids, synthetic pesticides that are approved for organic use but may be toxic to pollinators. Ask questions about specific plants.*

**Prairie Restoration**, Scandia, Minn., 800-837-5986, [prairieresto.com](http://prairieresto.com): Prairie Restoration has a large selection of plants for all Minnesota habitats and excellent advice on natives. Plants are grown only from their seeds

**Tangletown Gardens**, 5353 Nicollet Ave So., Minneapolis, 612-822-4769: [www.tangletowngardens.com](http://www.tangletowngardens.com). Plants are grown at a greenhouse in Plato, Minn., from Seed Savers Seeds and are propagated from their own plants. They use predatory insects to control pests.

**The Vagary**, Randolph, MN 507-263-5369: [www.thevagary.com](http://www.thevagary.com). Excellent website for perennials, natives and growing conditions. Nancy knows natives.

### Sources for Untreated Seeds

**Baker's Creek Heirloom Seed Company**, 2278 Baker Creek Road, Mansfield, MO 65704, 417-924-8917: [bakercreekheirloomseed.com](http://bakercreekheirloomseed.com). All seeds are non-GMO, nonhybrid, nonpatented, nontreated and include many heirlooms.

**Fedco Seeds**, P.O. Box 520, Waterville, ME 04903, 207-426-9900: [fedcoseeds.com](http://fedcoseeds.com). Untreated vegetable, herb and flower seeds.

**High Mowing Organic Seeds**, 76 Quarry Road, Wolcott, VT 05685, 802-472-6174: [highmowingseeds.com](http://highmowingseeds.com). One hundred percent organic and non-GMO seeds.

**ION Exchange Native Wildflower Seed & Plant Nursery**, Iowa, 563-419-0837: [ionxchange.com](http://ionxchange.com). No pretreatments, ION grows all their own seeds and plants.

**Johnny's Seeds**, 877-564-6697, P.O. Box 299 Waterville, ME 04903: [johnnysseeds.com](http://johnnysseeds.com) or [customerservice@johnnyseeds.com](mailto:customerservice@johnnyseeds.com). Many certified organic untreated seeds and heirlooms and some conventional.

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## SOURCES OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Advice on garden preparation, plant selection and care is probably available where native plants are sold. In addition, the Anoka Conservation District provides assistance to projects that were funded through this organization, and the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service provides assistance to agricultural producers:

Anoka Conservation District:

[http://www.anokaswcd.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=119&Itemid=475](http://www.anokaswcd.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=119&Itemid=475)

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service:

[http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/mn/contact/local/?cid=nrcs142p2\\_023892](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/mn/contact/local/?cid=nrcs142p2_023892)

## SOURCES OF FUNDING

The USDA NRCS has funding for pollinator projects on farms in Minnesota – information here:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/mn/programs/financial/equip/?cid=stelprdb1249026>

At this time, there are not many grants specifically for pollinator plantings on non-farm lands. There are other grants available, however, for water quality projects that can incorporate pollinator-friendly plantings. Some watershed organizations provide grants for building rain gardens – find your watershed and contact them directly to see what they have: [http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/partners/directories/WD\\_Dir.pdf](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/partners/directories/WD_Dir.pdf) Most of Anoka County/LWV ABC area is served by the Coon Creek Watershed District (page 9) and the Rice Creek Watershed District (page 14) in the aforementioned directory.

## LWV POSITIONS SUPPORTING THIS WORK

LWVMN Natural Resources

<http://www.lwvmn.org/page.aspx?pid=471>

### Natural Resources

**LWV US Position:** Natural resources should be managed as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems. Resources should be conserved and protected to assure their future availability. Pollution of these resources should be controlled in order to preserve the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of ecosystems and to protect public health. (1986)

### Environment

**LWV US Position:** Natural resources should be managed as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems. Resources should be conserved and protected to assure their future availability. Pollution of these resources should be controlled in order to preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem and to protect public health.



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## Agriculture

**LWV US Position:** Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices for consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

**LWV Minnesota Position:** Support a system of sustainable agricultural production which provides safe, healthful food and which preserves and protects the state's human and natural agricultural resources and enhances the environment; research and technical assistance in farming practices and rural economies that improve the economic viability of family farms, environmental health, and the quality of life of family farmers and their communities.

## IDEAS GENERATED AT THE MARCH 10 LWV ABC MEETING

Thanks to Sandra Shanley for this excellent summary of the discussions at our March 10 meeting:

On March 10th, Andover resident Jim Myers told growers, gardeners and members of the LWV-ABC about the problems faced by pollinators. Pollinators are those creepy, crawling, flying insects, plus the birds, insects and animals who fertilize our crops, flower beds, and gardens. Pollinators have been meeting with a series of disasters from weather, accidents, in a surrounding mono-culture of corn, and the government's lack of action against neonicotinoid pesticides. Whole bee colonies are falling prey to bee colony collapse disorder at an unprecedented rate. Overworked, underfed bees grow disoriented, wander in acres of corn and beans and never return to their hives.

Not only are there fewer bees, there are also fewer experienced bee keepers to maintain healthy bee colonies. More than a third of the world's crop species depend on pollination, valued in North America around \$20 Billion a year. Fruits, vegetables, nuts, flowers, and many other ornamental and agricultural industries depend on pollination. Without pollinators we would have fewer choices in the marketplace and for our table.

Pollinators, like bees and butterflies, are disappearing worldwide, due to

- habitat loss,
- pesticides,
- diseases,
- parasites
- predators,
- accidents

We can help pollinators by

- planting flowers and gardens everywhere
- reducing or eliminating pesticide use, (especially neo-nicotinoids)
- providing nesting habitats,
- informing people, groups, organizations and businesses about this issue
- supporting the University of Minnesota's Bee Lab, Bee Squad and its world acknowledged bee expert and educator, Dr. Marla Spivak who helps bee keepers to foster healthy bee populations
- asking community, educational, agricultural business, and industry to encourage study this problem
- LWVUS, LWVMN, and CMAL have natural resources positions that would be helpful if LWV-ABC supported a pollinator friendly position
- Ally with other groups i.e.
  - Izaak Walton
  - schools, colleges, universities
  - political parties

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Also at this meeting, the group brainstormed a list of actions:

- Check out the Xerxes Society – volunteer and learn
- Don't keep our yards so neat, leave old flower stalks as nesting habitat for native bees
- Build native bee homes – reference on Xerxes website
- Entice bumblebees
- Shop wisely
- Keep some bare soil for native bee habitat (looks like little ant hills)
- Check city ordinances for bee-friendly
- Promote bee-friendly city resolutions
- Work with parks to enhance habitat in public places
- Safeguard bee habitat
- Encourage native plants in their native forms
- Talk to your nursery about the plants you buy this spring – are they treated with pesticides or fungicides?
- Read labels – look for ...?
- Write the companies that make pesticides and request larger, more readable labels
- Alternative pesticides – corn gluten meal
- Plant “Pollinator Pockets” in parks
- Practice ‘elevator speech’ to promote awareness
- Pollinator gardens in neighborhoods – make a teaching moment like raingardens
- Plant clover instead of grass

## POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY CITY RESOLUTION

Here's an example of a resolution from Shorewood, Minnesota:

### A RESOLUTION ENDORSING "BEE-SAFE" POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

**WHEREAS, the Shorewood City Council and Park Commission have undertaken several work sessions dedicated to the study and understanding of promoting a healthy natural environment through the reduction and elimination of harmful pesticides; and**  
**WHEREAS, bees and other pollinators are integral to a wide diversity of essential foods including fruit, nuts, and vegetables; and**  
**WHEREAS, native bees and honey bees are threatened due to habitat loss, pesticide use, pathogens and parasites; and**

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WHEREAS, recent research suggests that there is a link between pesticides that contain neonicotinoids and the die-off of plant pollinators, including honey bees, native bees, butterflies, moths, and other insects; and

WHEREAS, neonicotinoids are synthetic chemical insecticides that are similar in structure and action to nicotine, a naturally occurring plant compound; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it is in the public interest and consistent with adopted City policy for the City to demonstrate its commitment to a safe and healthy community environment through the implementation of pest management practices in the maintenance of the city parks, open spaces and city property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Shorewood:

1. The City shall undertake its best efforts to become a Bee -Safe City by undertaking best management practices in the use of plantings and pesticides in all public places within the City.

2. property including pesticides from the neonicotinoid family.

The City shall refrain from the use of systemic pesticides on Shorewood City

3. other pollinators in the City's public spaces.

The City shall undertake its best efforts to plant flowers favorable to bees and

4. from systemic pesticides including neonicotinoids.

The City shall designate Bee -Safe areas in which future City plantings are free

5. importance of creating and maintaining a pollinator -friendly habitat.

The City shall undertake best efforts to communicate to Shorewood residents the The City shall publish a Bee -Safe City Progress Report on an annual basis.

## STATE OF MINNESOTA POLLINATOR INITIATIVES

Minnesota Department of Agriculture: <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/protecting/bmps/pollinators.aspx>

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources: [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/pollinator\\_resources/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/pollinator_resources/index.html)

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources: <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/practices/pollinator/index.html>

Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources: <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/comm/docs/LCCMR-PollinatorUpdate.pdf>

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Environmental Initiative's December 4, 2014, Forum** "CREATING HABITAT FOR MINNESOTA'S POLLINATORS"- there are many good talks posted here! <http://www.environmental-initiative.org/events/event/policy-forum-series-pollinator-habitat>

**This is an EXCELLENT article in the Park Bugle** – at the end there is a listing of sources for native and non-treated plants and seeds. <http://www.parkbugle.org/creating-a-bee-friendly-garden/>

# POLLINATOR PROTECTION RESOURCES: LWV ABC RESOURCES FOR ADVOCACY

Here are other resources, again thanks to Sandra for finding us the article above and all these following!

## Protecting Minnesota Pollinators

- MN Dept of Agriculture Pollinator Report to the Legislature (January 2014):  
<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/en/news/~media/Files/news/govrelations/pollinators/leg rpt-pollinators14.pdf>
- Article in the Star Tribune on pesticide use on seed: [State considers banning class of pesticide to help bees](#)
- Additional links and resources from Sandra Shanley:  
<http://www.fws.gov/pollinators/Features/FeaturedPollinator.html>  
<http://www.fws.gov/pollinators/PollinatorPages/YourHelp.html>  
<http://www.fws.gov/pollinators/PollinatorPages/YourHelp.html#garden>  
<http://www.extension.org/pages/19581/conserving-pollinators:-a-primer-for-gardeners#.U5HfTykh2o>  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/extensionhorticulture/sets/72157614682365073/>  
<https://whhttp://www.motherjones.com/environment/2014/06/david-allred-california-bee-theft>  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/extensionhorticulture/sets/72157614682365073/>

## Bee-friendly city resolution and ordinances

- This is a list of hyperlinks to city ordinances regarding bee keeping (Andover is the first one!):  
<http://beelab.umn.edu/Resources/Ordinancesregardingbees/index.htm>
- Beekeeping now easier in Minneapolis: <http://www.minneapolisismn.gov/news/WCMS1P-106918>
- Seattle press release – September 24 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### **Central Co-op and Seattle Sierra Club Achieve Seattle Municipal Ban on Neonicotinoids!**

**Seattle, WA:** On Monday September 22, the Seattle City Council, with Mayor Ed Murray concurring, voted unanimously to enact a municipal ban on the use of neonicotinoid pesticides by the City of Seattle, and on land managed by the City of Seattle. Seattle becomes the largest city to take such a stand.

Central Co-op and Sierra Club Seattle Group brought the resolution to City Council, and led the campaign for passage. Over 4300 people signed their petition, and 24 organizations signed on to the resolution.

In addition to enacting a municipal ban, the resolution also calls for a national moratorium on neonicotinoids; calls on the White House Task Force on Pollinator Health to take action; on the EPA to suspend registration of this class of pesticides; on the US Congress to pass the Save America's Pollinators Act; and on retailers in

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Seattle to not sell neonicotinoids.

“It’s a small but meaningful step in the growing worldwide movement for pollinators, which are extremely important for agricultural production and for ecosystem health” says Webster Walker, Central Co-op’s community outreach administrator who testified in support of the measure. “We look forward to further steps from the city to make Seattle the bee friendliest city in the USA.”

**Petition site with 4300 signatures and links to 24 supporting**

**organizations:** <http://www.change.org/petitions/city-of-seattle-we-call-on-the-city-of-seattle-to-ban-neonicotinoid-pesticide-usage>

### The Value of Native bees and native plants

- Poster: <http://homesteadsurvival.tumblr.com/image/68505784567>

### Bee Educators

- The goal of bee research at the University of Minnesota is to promote the health of bee pollinators. <http://beelab.umn.edu/index.htm>
- Information on bee habits and habitats: [http://www.beelab.umn.edu/About/Life\\_of\\_Bees/index.htm](http://www.beelab.umn.edu/About/Life_of_Bees/index.htm)
- This is a resource on Minnesota plants to use in pollinator-friendly gardens [http://beelab.umn.edu/prod/groups/cfans/@pub/@cfans/@bees/documents/article/cfans\\_article\\_451478.pdf](http://beelab.umn.edu/prod/groups/cfans/@pub/@cfans/@bees/documents/article/cfans_article_451478.pdf)

### The Bee Squad

- The Bee Squad is committed to bringing back a bee friendly world by educating, training, and assisting people engaged in helping bees thrive. By promoting awareness about the critical contribution of pollinators to nutritious foods and a green environment, the Bee Squad helps people make choices that are good for the bees and ultimately good for us all. <http://beelab.umn.edu/BeeSquad/>

### Role of Farmers in Bees and Bee Habitat

- New York Times takes a look at this topic [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/03/science/program-looks-to-give-bees-a-leg-up-or-six.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/03/science/program-looks-to-give-bees-a-leg-up-or-six.html?_r=1)
- New technology for reducing pollinator exposure to planter dust [http://dtnpf-digital.com/article/Bee\\_Barrier\\_/1595539/190033/article.html](http://dtnpf-digital.com/article/Bee_Barrier_/1595539/190033/article.html)

### Planting Bee Friendly Flowers and Gardens

- What to plant to support pollinators? [http://xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/11/xerces\\_bee\\_plants\\_upper\\_midwest.pdf](http://xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/11/xerces_bee_plants_upper_midwest.pdf)

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- What not to plant to protect pollinators <http://blogs.mprnews.org/statewide/2013/08/plants-used-for-bee-habitat-might-kill-bees/>
- Purchase plants and flowers that aren't treated with neonicotinoids: Dale Bachman and John Daniels of the local garden store Bachman's confirmed that Bachman's nursery has gone neonic free! Neonicotinoids are the systemic insecticides that are expressed in every cell of a plant and in its nectar and pollen. They've been widely credited as one of the many problems challenging pollinators. "We've decided to eliminate neonics," Bachman said. "In all our production operations, in the plants we produce, in nursery stock and outdoor plants, in any plants which are out and available for pollinators." <http://mspmag.com/Blogs/Dara/March-2014/Bachman%E2%80%99s-Goes-Neonic-Free/>
- Info from the Honeybee Conservancy <http://thehoneybeeconservancy.org/act-today-2/plant-a-bee-garden/>
- Bees need water, too <http://homesteadrevival.blogspot.com/2011/06/bees-need-water.html>

### Bee Die-offs

- Immune Suppression by Neonicotinoid Insecticides at the Root of Global Wildlife Declines. This report may be of particular interest, describing broader implications of neonics (beyond insects) on amphibian, bird, and mammal immune systems (eg., hypothesized underlying factors driving white nose syndrome in bats). <http://www.stmconnect.com/sites/default/files/3-12%20%20JEIT-D-12-00001.pdf>
- Scientific studies on effects of systemic pesticides: <http://www.tfsp.info/>
- Legal research on plant labeling, notes that Bachman's and Gerten's will likely be good sources of non-treated plants: <http://blog.legalsolutions.thomsonreuters.com/legal-research/pollinator-policy/>

### Take action to address dangers of Herbicides, Pesticides and systemic products

- Bees are dying off at unprecedented rates. And while EPA has taken little action to protect bees from harmful pesticides, the agency's new leader can step it up. Will you join me in urging Gina McCarthy to prioritize protecting bees? Take action here » [http://action.panna.org/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action\\_KEY=14146](http://action.panna.org/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=14146)
- Pesticide Action Network North America  
1611 Telegraph Ave. Suite 1200, Oakland, CA 94612 USA  
Phone: 510.788.9020 Email: [community@panna.org](mailto:community@panna.org) Web: [www.panna.org](http://www.panna.org)
- The Honeybee Health Coalition: Their ezine is also available online at <http://live.ezine.com/ezine/archives/1636/1636-2014.10.17.10.36.archive.html>
- Here's a video from Jeff Anderson, a beekeeper from CA, he would like help to spread it far and wide so pass it on. It is a 2 minute video. <http://youtu.be/Sn-fQndtC2c>
  - And here's a note he sent to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture:

#### ***Pollinators are in trouble.***

*California Minnesota Honey Farms has lost over ½ of our bees this summer, primarily due to the use of systemic seed treatments. This has been an escalating problem the last several seasons. The beehives suffer a pesticide setback which correlates with spring planting and the corresponding drift of poisonous dust off the fields as they are planted. This causes a number of the hives to lose their queens and have to raise new ones.*

## POLLINATOR PROTECTION RESOURCES: LWV ABC RESOURCES FOR ADVOCACY

*The pesticide is a gift that keeps giving as the seed treatment is water soluble and rain events cause toxic runoff. This water solubility is what allows the plants to 'pick up' the toxin and distribute throughout the plant. When the crop 'blooms' or sheds pollen, bees collect the toxic nectar and pollen as food resources.*

*The queen and the eggs she lays are fed from the incoming food. The incoming food is toxic enough to kill some of the young bees as they are raised, but worse, the near constant diet of toxic food eventually kills the queen. Without a queen the hive ceases to exist.*

*EPA is the entity charged with managing pesticides. They are supposed to do a cost/benefit analysis as part of the registration process. Last week EPA announced that they have determined that there is no yield gain from the use of systemic seed treatment vs. no treatment on soybeans.*

*The 'tech' treatment is the lions share of your cost for seeds, you may wish to explore purchasing untreated seeds for 2015. (Continued on next page...)*

*Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is in the process of evaluating systemic seed treatment registrations. Seed companies are in cahoots with pesticide manufacturers. Currently most seed companies will not sell high producing varieties without pesticide tech products applied. They only sell lower producing varieties without treatments. As a farmer, you should contact the Commissioner of Ag and demand that they put choice back in the seed market.*

*Agriculture Commissioner  
Dave Frederickson  
625 Robert St N,  
St Paul, MN 55155  
Or Email [Dave.Frederickson@state.mn.us](mailto:Dave.Frederickson@state.mn.us)  
Phone 651-210-6219*

*While we love Minnesota and hope to return with bees next year, we have been severely damage and are reluctant to bring bees back into a hostile environment. It is my firm belief that farmers are good stewards of their land, and do not purposefully damage their environment. You have been 'sold a bill of goods' with little to no choice in the matter, and that you need to demand that choice back.*

*Thanks for your thoughtful consideration and action  
Sincerely Jeff Anderson Owner of California Minnesota Honey Farms*

### MN Legislation concerning Bees and establishing Bee Habitats in MN communities

- This bill prohibits labeling or advertising a plant, plant material, or nursery stock as beneficial to pollinators if the plant was treated with an insecticide that was absorbed by the plant and, as a result, the plant is lethal to pollinators. This bill was passed and signed into law in May, 2014.  
<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?b=House&f=HF2798&ssn=0&y=2014>
- This bill would allow cities to ban use of certain pesticides. It did not advance through the legislature and is now dead for this session. <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?b=House&f=HF2799&ssn=0&y=2014>
- This bill concerns bees and other pollinators killed by pesticide. If the pesticide applicator cannot be identified or the pesticide applicator is identified and found to have followed application instructions and restrictions on the product's label, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) could compensate the bee owner from



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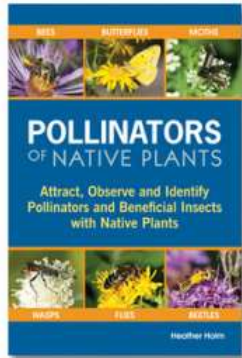
state Pesticide Regulatory Account. The Pesticide Regulatory Account contains the fees and penalties paid to MDA by pesticide manufacturers, distributors, and applicators. The bill also authorizes MDA to form a pollinator emergency response team and declares the Minnesota Zoo the official state pollinator bank. The bill was referred to the Finance committees and some form of the bill may be incorporated into a supplemental budget bill. At this time, it is not known if this was enacted.

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?f=HF2908&y=2014&ssn=0&b=house#actions>

- LCCMR funding to protect and study pollinators and their habitat (projects funded in 2014):  
[http://www.lccmr.leg.mn/projects/2014/2014\\_appropriations\\_final.pdf](http://www.lccmr.leg.mn/projects/2014/2014_appropriations_final.pdf)

## POLLINATOR PROTECTION RESOURCES: LWV ABC RESOURCES FOR ADVOCACY

Book on Native Pollinators in Minnesota:



Local author – Heather Holm

**Contact** [contact@pollinatorsnativeplants.com](mailto:contact@pollinatorsnativeplants.com)

<http://www.pollinatorsnativeplants.com/>

### **Support Pollinators with Native Plants**

This is the first comprehensive book to illustrate the specific relationships between native pollinators and native plants. Organized by plant communities, the book profiles over 65 perennial native plants of the Midwest, Great Lakes region, Northeast and southern Canada and the pollinators, beneficial insects and flower visitors the plants attract.

With its easy-to-use format, the book provides the reader with information on how to attract, plant for and identify pollinators with native plants.

### **Identify, Attract & Plant for Pollinators & Beneficial Insects with Native Plants**

Beautifully designed and illustrated with over 1600 photos of plants and insects, the book includes information on pollination, types of pollinators and beneficial insects, pollinator habitat and conservation as well as pollinator landscape plans.

#### **Audience**

This is an important book for gardeners, students, native plant enthusiasts, landscape restoration professionals, small fruit and vegetable growers and farmers who are interested in attracting, identifying, supporting or planting for pollinators

## POLLINATOR PROTECTION RESOURCES: LWV ABC RESOURCES FOR ADVOCACY

### Show your support

From: Sandra Shanley <sandrashanley@comcast.net>  
Subject: Join me in speaking out about the bees

Friends,

Bees are dying off around the world in record numbers -- but big retailers are still selling the poison that is killing them.

I just signed this petition at SumofUs.org -- "Bees" -- and I think you'd like to sign it as well. You can sign by visiting this link:  
<http://action.sumofus.org/a/home-depot-lowes-bees-neonicotinoids/?sub=mtl>

Thank you! - Sandra

### NOW IS THE TIME TO TAKE ACTION!

