

## *Pollinator Partnership's Canadian BeeSmart® School Garden Kit Giveaway Initiative*



January 15, 2019

Pollination is essential for life on earth; humans rely on the thousands of different species, mostly insects, to provide pollination to wildflowers and for the food we eat. However, there are many global and local threats that are affecting native pollinator and honey bee populations. So, why does this all matter, you may ask? About one third of the food that we eat every day is the direct result of pollination, and without pollinators our diets would lack exciting and essential foods such as fruits, vegetables, and even coffee and chocolate! In addition to the food we eat, pollinators support healthy ecosystems that improve air quality, stabilize soils, and support all other wildlife. Pollinator declines can have large impacts given the critical roles that they play in ecosystem health. These small, but mighty animals need our help to get populations thriving again!

Pollinator Partnership has proven to be a leader in pollinator education through the success of the BeeSmart® School Garden Kit in the United States, which led to the development of Canadian-specific content for the Canadian BeeSmart® School Garden Kit. Below are some testimonials from teachers who have used the kit in the United States:

“Thank-you from the children and myself for the Kit! The children enjoyed learning so much through its use! Our cucumber plants are doing well, and our Pollinator Garden is drawing many bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. I will be using the kit for many years to come, it was such a hit!” – Marie F., NC

“This was a great addition to our school’s instruction on pollinators. Thanks!” – James D., IL

### **NEW Canadian School Pollinator Garden and Curriculum Kits**

Pollinator Partnership Canada has developed the Canadian School Garden Kit; kits support teachers, administrators, guardians, youth groups, after school programs, amongst others, in guiding students through a discovery process that will increase students’ understanding in science, math, and language arts by connecting them to plants, pollinators, food, and gardens through creation of habitat for pollinators and classroom learning. We believe that getting children outside and into the garden is the most valuable part of this experience.

The BeeSmart® School Garden Kit exposes students to new ideas about food, wildlife, and plants. It helps students choose behaviours that support their own health, the health of the planet

### **Kit Giveaway**

With support from VanCity and Whole Foods Market, Pollinator Partnership Canada is happy to announce that we will donate the Canadian School Garden Kit to **three** schools in Greater Victoria. We are looking to connect with schools that are seeking to expand on already existing pollinator programs, native plant learning gardens, or other hands-on ecological learning. However, schools that do not have an existing pollinator program or outdoor classroom are also encouraged to apply, as the School Garden Kit is a great opportunity to bring a new and exciting component to the math and sciences. Canadian educators and environmental education organizations are also encouraged to apply. We are looking for schools with a high commitment to environmental sustainability, conservation, and stewardship. Pollinator Partnership Canada

will select **three** schools in Greater Victoria based on how well the application matches with the priority areas as outlined in the Request for Applications.

Applications are due **January 31, 2019**, please contact Jennifer Lotz, [jl@pollinator.org](mailto:jl@pollinator.org) for more information on this initiative, and to obtain a Request for Applications form.

For those who are not awarded a kit, they can be purchased for \$225 and are available from our website, <https://pollinator.org/bee-smart#order>.

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**Pollinator Partnership (P2)** - Established in 1997, P2 is the largest 501(c)3 non-profit organization exclusively dedicated to the health, protection, and conservation of pollinators and their ecosystems. **Pollinator Partnership Canada (P2C)** was the first international expansion of P2 and was established in 2013. Signature initiatives include the NAPPC (North American Pollinator Protection Campaign), National Pollinator Week, the Island Pollinator Initiative, and the Ecoregional Planting Guides.

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