

SUPPORTING POLLINATORS NEAR POTATOES

This guide is intended for growers and applicators supporting pollinators and pollination services in field-grown potato production systems.

Potatoes have perfect flowers and propagate clonally via tubers. While potatoes do not require pollinators to reproduce, their flowers provide nutrients, drawing pollinators into fields³. When properly protected and supported, pollinators enhance farming systems. In practice, planting potatoes year after year in the same field is inadvisable. To avoid associated pest and pathogen risks, growers should implement appropriate crop rotations, many of which are dependent on or benefit from pollinators. Establishing pollinator habitat helps promote healthy soil and crop production^{4,5}.

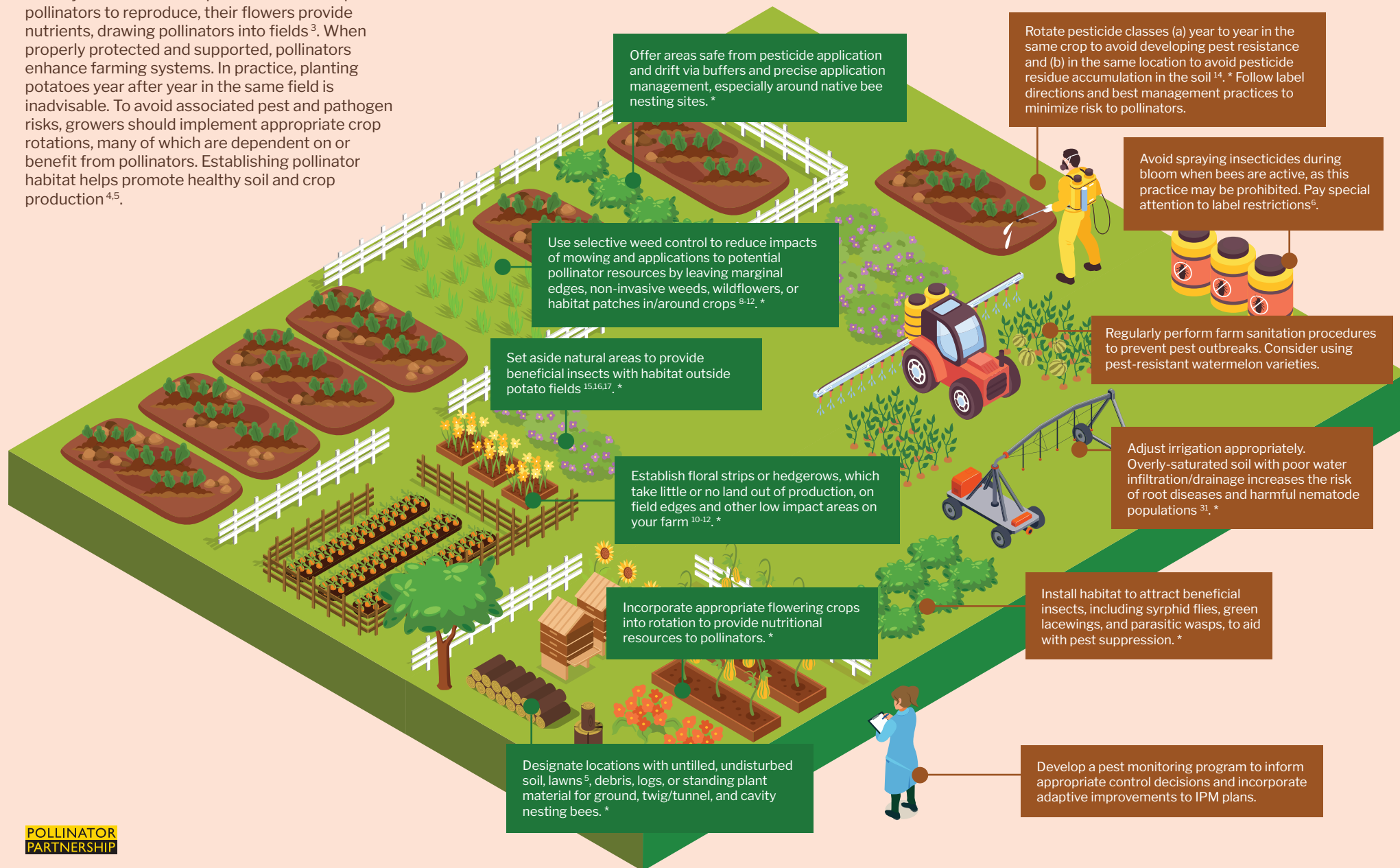
ON-FARM ACTION GUIDE

Habitat and forage

Establishing habitat provisions on your farm is crucial for supporting pollinators⁷⁻¹⁰. Consider these elements when incorporating pollinator habitat into your farming operation:

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

IPM invests in long-term, preventative practices through ecosystem function. Below is a list of strategies you can use to manage pests and mitigate risks to pollinators:





KEY ACTIONS FOR POTATO PRODUCTION

The following actions are essential for sustaining suitable pollinator habitats:

- Offer flowering diversity with continuous bloom spanning the growing season. *
- Provide sites for nesting pollinator species. *
- Develop a thorough IPM program to reduce pesticide use.
- Maintain good communication with beekeepers regarding pesticide applications.

For references and additional resources, scan here



SCAN ME

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AGRICULTURE SUPPORTING POLLINATORS: **POTATO PRODUCTION**

POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP

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Practices for use at all scales of production.