



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUN 14 2023

THE ADMINISTRATOR

NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK

June 19-25, 2023

PROCLAMATION

Pollinators include bees, wasps, sawflies, butterflies, moths, beetles, flies and vertebrates like some birds and bats. Responsible for helping 90 percent of the world's flowering plants reproduce, pollinators contribute to healthy ecosystems.

Pollination is crucial to more than 1,200 food crops and provides nourishment to nearly 200,000 different plants that yield various oils, cotton, clean air, seeds and vegetables. In fact, one-third of the nation's food supply depends on pollinators.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency works to ensure that Americans have clean air, land and water and is concerned about pollinator decline. Many factors contribute to this decline: pests and pathogens, poor nutrition, pesticides, habitat loss and human activity.

Pollinators continue to play a vital role in our lives and ecosystems, which is why the EPA is developing new strategies to protect pollinators from pesticides as outlined in the agency's first-ever Endangered Species Act workplan, continuing to review pesticides already on the market to reduce harm to pollinators, raising public awareness through various outreach initiatives, and collaborating with other federal agencies like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Department of Agriculture. The EPA also collaborates with state, local, and nongovernmental organizations and international partners to address pollinator health.

The EPA is working to adopt meaningful protections for many endangered species, including endangered pollinators. As outlined in the ESA workplan, the EPA is working to identify potential geographically specific protections in the habitat of 27 endangered species especially vulnerable to pesticides, including three pollinators and other species that depend on pollinators.

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of the importance of pollinators to healthy ecosystems and sustainable, diverse agriculture, I, Michael S. Regan, Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, do hereby proclaim June 19-25, 2023, as National Pollinator Week at the EPA. I call upon the people of the United States to join me in celebrating the significance of pollinators with appropriate observances and activities.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael S. Regan".

MICHAEL S. REGAN