

State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, pollinators – including honey bees, native bees, butterflies, and certain bird and insect species – are crucial to the health of New York State's environment, as well as the strength of our agricultural economy; protecting and preserving pollinator populations across New York State is environmentally and agriculturally beneficial and contributes to sustaining a healthy economy; and

Whereas, the number of stressors on pollinators has increased significantly over the years and, as these stressors have increased, so too has the loss of pollinators; and

Whereas, the loss of pollinators is believed to be caused by a combination of factors – including poor nutrition, loss of foraging habitats, parasites, pesticides, pathogens, lack of genetic diversity, poor land management practices, and the growing threat of climate change – coupled with a significant increase in the presence of varroa mites in honeybee hives weakening the overall hive health; and

Whereas, New York State's pollinator population is vital to the state's crop industry and food production, contributing significantly to the agricultural economy by providing more than \$439 million to the value of the state's food crops through pollination on an annual basis; and

Whereas, the promotion of the health and recovery of pollinator populations is increasingly important to the production of such crops as apples, cherries, onions, pumpkins, and cauliflower; and

Whereas, New York State pollinators support native plant species that are important for clean water, erosion prevention, feeding and sheltering wildlife, providing shade, and supporting soil fertility; and

Whereas, New York State's current policies to enhance foraging habitats, establish best management practices, create an inventory of wild pollinators in the state, encourage pollinator-friendly planting and use of natural forms of pest management to the maximum extent on state lands, demonstrates New York State's leading effort to promote the health of pollinators; and

Whereas, the New York State Pollinator Protection Plan expands the state's efforts to protect these species and their natural habitats and commits to finding meaningful solutions to this serious issue, marking an important step forward in the state's ecological and economic future; and

Whereas, since 2016, when the Pollinator Protection Plan was released, New York State has made significant strides in protecting pollinators through the four main goals of the plan – best management practices, habitat enhancement, research, and outreach and education; and

Whereas, a multi-year funding commitment to Plan actions has been made and has enabled research into the causes of pollinator population decline, established a Technical Advisory Team to assist beekeepers in identifying and combating the causes of poor hive health, and provided for outreach and education regarding honeybee health; and

Whereas, the research into the impacts of pesticides, pathogens, and parasites is beginning to produce valuable results, there is hereby recognized the need to continue such research and to further explore the synergistic effects and interactions of pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides; and

Whereas, New York State works with the agricultural community, not-for-profit organizations, and municipalities to promote wise conservation stewardship, including the protection and maintenance of pollinators and their habitats on working lands, state lands, and in nature; and

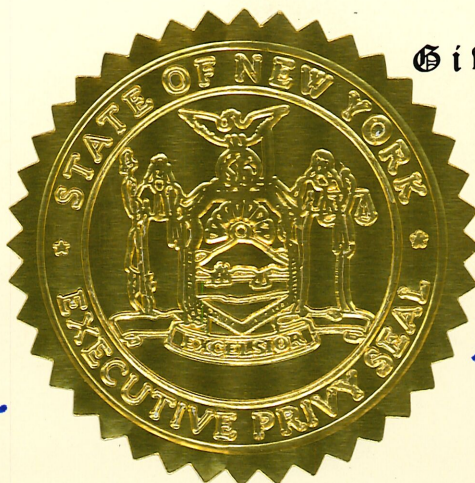
Whereas, Pollinator Protection Week provides an opportunity for New Yorkers to learn about the significance of pollinators to the future of our state's agricultural industry and natural habitats, and the importance of increasing efforts to protect the many pollinating species within our borders; it is fitting that we support the goals of this meaningful observance which seeks to preserve the pollinator populations that make essential contributions on a statewide, national, and global scale;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim June 22 - 28, 2020 as

POLLINATOR WEEK

in the Empire State.

Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany on this thirteenth
day of June in the year two thousand twenty.



M. C.

Secretary to the Governor
Melissa DeRosa

Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor