



Pollination Canada

www.pollinationcanada.ca

Did you know that 70% of our food crops need insects for pollination? Not only bees and butterflies; there are over 1000 species of pollinating insects in Canada! Unfortunately, these beneficial insects are threatened, and so are the fruit and vegetable produce, and the wild ecosystems that depend on these pollinators.

A New Citizen Science Program

In 2003, Seeds of Diversity Canada and Environment Canada's Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network Coordinating Office (EMANCO) embarked on a joint venture to address the alarming lack of appreciation and knowledge about native bee species and other pollinators. Together they created a new "citizen science" program that engages the Canadian public in a nationwide survey of insect pollinators.

The heart of the program is actual monitoring of insect populations and diversity. By observing pollinators in gardens, local parks, along country roads, basically anywhere flowers are growing, and then sending in these observations, Pollination Canada participants help scientists to better understand the crucial relationships between pollinators, ecosystems, plant diversity, and human activity. This information is needed now, so that steps can be taken to preserve pollinator populations.

Through workshops and online resources, Pollination Canada educates Canadians about the important role of pollinating

insects, and provides them with the tools to participate in conserving their habitats.

All of the Pollination Canada training material, including the Observer's Kit, and other resources, are easily downloadable from the website at www.pollinationcanada.ca.

A Network of Institutions

Pollination Canada is also a network of educational, agricultural, and environmental institutions across Canada who lead the way in pollinator education and conservation.

Since its inception, a growing number of partners have joined Pollination Canada by offering Pollination Canada educational materials to their staff, volunteers, members, and visitors, and many have integrated the Pollination Canada program in their programs.

Pollination Canada Partners know that taking the Pollination Protection Challenge is an ideal way for Canadians to get involved and to make a difference.



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