



## Legislative Affairs

Six Beacon Street, Suite 1025 ▲ Boston, Massachusetts 02108  
tel 617.523.8448 ▲ fax 617.523.4183 ▲ email [kheymann@massaudubon.org](mailto:kheymann@massaudubon.org)

### Pollinator Fact Sheet

#### Summary

- At least 18 states have enacted legislation on pollinator health.
- 5 states have enacted legislation to protect pollinator habitat, and 7 states have enacted legislation to reduce the harmful effects of pesticides on pollinators.
- At least 26 states have pollinator protection plans in place.

#### Habitat protection legislation

1. **California** AB 559 authorizes Dept. of Fish and Wildlife to conserve monarch butterfly habitat
2. **Connecticut** SB 231 directs Dept. of Agriculture to include model pollinator habitat in their conservation plans
3. **Kentucky** HB 175 directs state agencies to encourage coal licensees to protect habitat on reclamation sites
4. **Minnesota** HB 976 appropriates \$300,000 to develop best management practices that protect pollinators
5. **Washington** HB 2478 requires agencies to give preference to replacing weeds with native forage plants

#### Pesticide legislation

1. **California** AB 1789 requires Dept. of Pesticide Regulation to re-evaluate neonicotinoids' effect on pollinator health
2. **Connecticut** SB 231 directs Commissioner of Ag. to minimize spread of neonicotinoid dust and its harm to pollinators
3. **Indiana** SB 314 prohibits producing, storing, handling, disposing of pesticides in a manner that could harm pollinators
4. **Maryland** SB 198/HB 211 restricts both the selling and use of neonicotinoids
5. **Minnesota** HB 3172 authorizes Commissioner of Ag. to take enforcement action for violations that harm pollinators
6. **Oregon** HB 4139 requires Oregon State Uni. to create educational materials to reduce pesticides' effect on pollinators

7. **Vermont** HB 869 requires Secretary of Ag. Food and Markets to evaluate neonicotinoids' effect on pollinator health

Pollinator protection plans - habitat protection specific (\* = addresses pesticides)

1. **\*Delaware** Managed Pollinator Protection Plan - best management practices that beekeepers, growers, and applicators can use; increases pollinator forage on public and private land
2. **\*Florida** Dept of Ag and Consumer Services (FDACS) bee protection program - fosters communication b/w beekeepers, growers, applicators; develops management practices on small farms that benefit ecosystem health including pollinator forage, water quality and soil health; acts as steward for pollinator health
3. **\*Georgia** Protecting Georgia's Pollinators (PGP) program - provides guidance for beekeepers, pesticide applicators, and gardeners
4. **Maine** Pollinator Protection Plan by Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; reduces risks to pollinators, focusing on managed hives; education; improved communication; best management practices (“landowners/growers/agencies” encouraged to plant bee forage, example of agency is Maine Department of Transportation)
5. **Maryland** Pollinator Protection Plan - improve pollinator habitat in gardens and lawns; healthy bee keeping; maximizing pollinator health on farms; improving habitat in open spaces
6. **Minnesota** Board of Water and Soil Resources Pollinator Plan - outreach; native seed mixes; inter agency coordination; habitat protection; habitat restoration
7. **New Hampshire** Wildlife Action Plan Appendix A (Insects) - land conservation/habitat management for 4 species of bumble bee and 2 species of butterfly
8. **New York State** Pollinator Protection Plan - best management practices; habitat enhancement; research; developing outreach and education program
9. **Ohio** Pollinator Health, Protection and Conservation Plan - expand habitat; minimize stressors; increase managed bee hive health; outreach
10. **\*Oregon** The Oregon Task Force on Pollinator Health - outreach; pesticide regulation; licensing and training of applicators; research; best management practices (state agencies encouraged to prioritize development and maintenance of pollinator habitat within their jurisdictions; counties, municipalities, and private landowners also encouraged to prioritize pollinator habitat)
11. **Texas** Monarch and Native Pollinator Conservation Plan - habitat conservation; education and outreach; research and monitoring; partnerships and collaboration
12. **\*Utah** Managed Pollinator Protection Plan - protect from pesticides; promote honey bee forage resources; improve overall health
13. **Washington** State Honey Bee Workgroup - health and habitat; data, resources and awareness; registration and taxation

14. **\*West Virginia** Pollinator Protection Plan - enhance communication among stakeholders; reduce unnecessary exposure of pollinators to chemicals; develop best management practices for beekeepers and landowners/growers (plant bee forage - buffer strips around waterways prime areas to improve bee forage, cover crops should include flowering plants in the mix); improve pollinator habitat (municipalities should consider pollinator health along streets and parks; the county and state should incorporate beneficial plants in their seed mix for planting in disturbed areas like road side right of ways; private landowners should plant bee forage)
15. **Wisconsin** Pollinator Protection Plan - improving pollinator health in gardens and lawns; healthy beekeeping; maximize pollinator health on farms; improve habitat in open spaces, roadsides

Pollinator protection plans - other (\* = addresses pesticides)

1. **\*California** Pollinator protection plans in place, application and bee location requirements in rule for citrus; Almond Board of California (ABC) also expanding Cooperative Management Practices
2. **\*Colorado** EPA Approved State-Managed Pollinator Protection Plan - enhance the communication between applicators, growers and beekeepers with the goal of allowing needed pesticide applications to occur, while ensuring pollinator impacts are minimized or eliminated through the use of best management practices
3. **\*Indiana** Pollinator Protection Plan - makes growers and applicators more aware of pollinators near pesticide application; encourages growers and applicators to contact pollinator managers; supports regulatory measures to promote pollinator health; promote best management practices; educate
4. **Kentucky** State Apiarist - identifies and eradicates infectious disease in honeybee colonies; educates about importance of honeybees and offers advice to beekeepers
5. **\*Mississippi** Honey Bee Stewardship Program - communication and education; considerations for farmer-beekeeper partners (hive placement, timing of insecticide application)
6. **\*New Mexico** State Pollinator Protection Plan - honey bee health survey; outreach and awareness; pesticide testing program; registry of pesticide sensitive areas
7. **\*North Carolina** State Pollinator Protection Plan - public stakeholder participation; enhancing communication b/w stakeholders; minimizing risk of pesticides; public outreach plan; process to periodically review/update plan
8. **North Dakota** ND Dept of Ag Pollinator Plan - voluntary; protect honeybees while enabling necessary cultivation practices; best management practices to help agricultural producers and beekeepers find common ground
9. **Vermont** State Pollinator Protection Plan - create stakeholder participation; encourage communication; design practices to minimize risks to bees - Proposed bill to create a Pollinator Protection Committee

10. **Virginia** State Managed Pollinator Protection Plan - best management practices for stakeholders; encourages communication; focuses on pollinators managed by humans for pollination purposes
11. **\*Wyoming** Managed Pollinator Protection Plan - reduce pollinator exposure to pesticides; research; effective communication among all parties; working together