



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, pollinators – including butterflies, honey bees, native bees, and certain bird and insect species – serve vital roles in promoting a healthy ecosystem and enable New York State’s agricultural economy to grow and succeed; protecting and preserving pollinator populations across New York State is agriculturally and environmentally integral to a thriving economy; and

**Whereas**, pollinators face multiple stressors that have significantly increased and, with the rise in the number of stressors, so has the loss of pollinators; and

**Whereas**, scientists attribute the suspected causes of the loss of pollinators to a combination of factors – including loss of foraging habitats, parasites, pathogens, pesticides, a lack of genetic diversity, poor land management practices – which are further exacerbated by climate change, coupled with a significant increase in the presence of varroa mites in honeybee hives that vector viruses and weaken overall hive health; and

**Whereas**, New York State’s crop industry and food production relies on a healthy and robust pollinator population, contributing significantly to the agricultural economy by providing more than \$439 million annually to the value of the state’s food crops through pollination of crops and other vegetation; and

**Whereas**, promoting the health, recovery and vitality of pollinator populations is increasingly important to the production of the crops that sustain our communities, including apples, cherries, onions, and pumpkins; and

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

**Whereas**, New York State’s current policies demonstrate our leading efforts to promote the health of pollinators by enhancing foraging habitats, establishing best management practices, creating an inventory of wild pollinators in the state, encouraging pollinator-friendly planting and the utilization of natural pest management to the maximum extent on state lands; and

**Whereas**, the New York State Pollinator Protection Plan expands the state’s efforts to preserve and protect these species as well as their natural habitats, and commits to discovering cutting-edge, productive solutions to this important issue, marking crucial progress for the state’s ecological and economic future; and

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

**Whereas**, a multi-year funding commitment to Plan actions is enabling 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 established a beekeeper registration that through inspection, certification, outreach and education will ensure honeybee health in New York; and

**Whereas**, ongoing research into the impacts of parasites, pathogens, and pesticides is producing valuable results, there is hereby recognized the need to continue advancing research opportunities to further explore the synergistic effects and interactions of pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides; and

**Whereas**, New York State partners with the agricultural community, not-for-profit organizations, and municipalities in collaborative efforts to promote wise conservation stewardship, including protecting and maintaining 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 pollinators and their critical importance to the future of our state’s agricultural industry and natural habitats, and the necessity of bolstering efforts to protect the many pollinating species within our borders; supporting the goals of this meaningful observance seeks to preserve the pollinator populations that make essential contributions on a statewide, national, and global scale;

**Now, Therefore**, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim June 20 - 26, 2022 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 twenty-second day of June in the year two thousand twenty-two.

Secretary to the Governor  
Karen Persichilli Keogh



Governor