



Citizens for pollinator conservation: a guidance

How can we - the citizens of Europe - help to reverse the decline of wild pollinators? Here you can find useful advice and concrete actions to help pollinators in your daily life. Your actions will provide a crucial contribution to the EU-wide efforts in tackling the decline of pollinators¹.

Did you know?

In Europe, bumblebees, solitary bees and hoverflies are the most prolific pollinators. Also important are other insects such as butterflies, moths, wasps, beetles, and flies. They pollinate crops that we rely on for food and other resources as well as wild plants. Pollinators are a crucial part of a functioning ecosystem and indispensable for human food and fibre production (fruits, nuts, vegetables, vegetable oils, cotton, and flax).

Yet, pollinators face numerous threats and many species are in decline or threatened with extinction. Decisive action is needed to halt the decline and put pollinator populations on the path to recovery.

¹EU Pollinators Initiative, <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/pollinators>

How can I help pollinators?

Pollinators need places (habitats) with food, water and shelter to raise their young and an unpolluted environment to thrive. You can take various actions to help with these needs and support the wellbeing of pollinators - as an individual or with your family, friends, and wider community. Pollinator conservation actions can take place in your **personal space** (your home and garden) or **common spaces** in your neighbourhood and wider area. You can also help the pollinators by becoming a **pollinator-friendly consumer** and a **citizen scientist**.



Plasterer bee © CC-BY-SA 4.0 Sharp photography wikimedia commons

Personal space

- Plant a variety of native plants to ensure flowers are present throughout the season
- Rewild part of your garden
- Allow your lawn to flower by mowing less
- Avoid using pesticides
- Reduce light pollution by turning off unnecessary outdoor lighting



Community and work spaces - join or lead actions

- Become a pollinator ambassador and encourage your city to take action
- Spread the word, celebrate and start competitions and exhibitions related to pollinators
- Encourage pollinator activities in schools and kindergartens
- Make space for pollinator habitat in your workplace, and lead nature walks with your colleagues
- Stimulate engagement in your community, and create habitats for pollinators

Better consumer

- Choose environmentally friendly products
- Avoid harmful products and producing too much waste
- Eat local, organic, and seasonal food
- Buy low impact outdoor lighting



Citizen Scientist - pollinator monitoring and awareness raising

- Improve your pollinator identification skills with tools and training
- Use your skills to observe pollinators in your area
- Take part in a pollinator monitoring programme

Small steps —> tangible results —> real change