



Wild flower border for pollinators

EU action on pollinators

The EU has put in place a range of measures beneficial to pollinators, such as the protection of their natural habitats through the EU nature legislation, support for beekeeping and restrictions of the use of pesticides harmful to bees. The EU Natura 2000 network of protected areas provides many habitats of vital importance for pollinators.

Yet, these measures have not been sufficient to safeguard our insect pollinators. This is why the European Commission launched the EU Pollinators Initiative in 2018.

High public concern for pollinators

Ninety-four per cent of the respondents to the EU public consultation think the decline of pollinators is alarming.



“Our quality of life – and our future – depends on the many services that nature provides for free. Pollination is one of these invisible, but invaluable services, so it is very worrying to learn that some of our top pollinators are at high risk! If we don’t address the reasons behind the decline in wild pollinators, and act urgently to stop it, we and our future generations will pay a very heavy price indeed.”

Virginijus Sinkevičius
EU Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries

What will the EU do in the coming years:

- Develop a monitoring system for pollinators
- More research on the causes and consequences of pollinator declines
- Create knowledge hub on pollinators
- Increase contribution of EU policies to pollinator conservation
- Engage citizens and businesses in actions for pollinators

For further information, please visit:
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/pollinators>

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ISBN 978-92-76-18570-3
doi: 10.2779/88885



The EU Pollinators Initiative



■ What are pollinators and why do we need them?

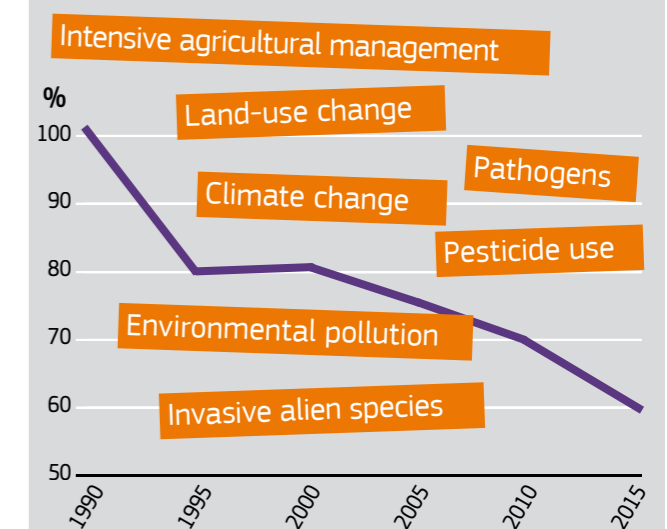
■ Why are pollinators declining?

■ What is the EU doing to stop the decline?

Did you know ...?

- In Europe, pollinators are insects such as bees, hoverflies, butterflies, moths, some wasps and beetles. Bees are the most prominent group, with about 2000 wild species.
- As they feed, pollinators transfer pollen from one flower to the next. 4 in 5 flowering plants need this help to set seed and fruit.
- Insect pollination is a vital driving force, essential for plant reproduction, our supply of healthy food and around € 15 billion worth of the EU’s annual agricultural production.
- Wild pollinators are in strong decline. 1 in 10 bee and butterfly species in Europe is on the verge of extinction.
- Habitats of pollinators are disappearing due to land use change, intensive farming and climate change. Pesticides and other pollutants, invasive alien species and diseases directly threaten pollinator’s health.

Drivers of pollinator decline



The EU Pollinators Initiative

*The EU Pollinators Initiative, launched in June 2018, aims to address the decline of wild pollinators in the EU.
It includes ten actions under three priority themes:*

Priority I: Improving knowledge of pollinator decline, its causes and consequences

Action 1: Support monitoring and assessment

Action 2: Support research and innovation

Action 3: Facilitate knowledge sharing and access to data

Priority II: Tackling the causes of pollinator decline

Action 4: Conserve endangered pollinator species and habitats

Action 5: Improve pollinator habitats on and around farmland

Action 6: Improve pollinator habitats in urban areas and the wider landscape

Action 7: Reduce the impacts of pesticide use on pollinators

Action 8: Reduce the impacts of invasive alien species on pollinators

Priority III: Raising awareness, engaging society and promoting collaboration

Action 9: Encourage the business sector and citizens to act

Action 10: Promote pollinator strategies and collaboration at all levels



Gold-tailed melitta



Buff-tailed bumblebee



A solitary bee



Marbled white butterflies



Marmalade hoverfly



Broad-bordered bee hawkmoth

