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# Promoting Pollinator Health Through Stewardship & Habitat Enhancement

Caydee Savinelli, Pollinator & IPM Stewardship Lead, Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC RI Pollinator Health Committee, January 5, 2017

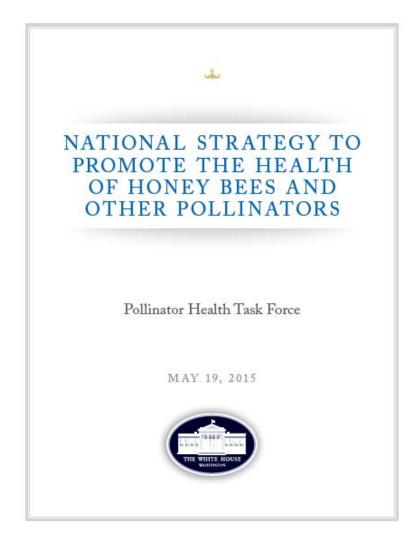
#### **U.S. Government – Pollinator Initiatives**

#### • **Presidential Memorandum** June 20, 2014

 Creating a Federal Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators

#### Pollinator Health Task Force Reports

- May, 2015 & June 2016
- Stressed importance of public & private partnerships





# **Pollinator Health Task Force Report Overarching Goals**







#### Honey Bees

 Reduce honey bee colony losses during winter (overwintering mortality) to no more than 15% within 10 years

## Monarch Butterflies

 Increase the Eastern population of the monarch butterfly to 225 million butterflies on 15 acres of overwintering grounds in Mexico

# Pollinator Habitat Acreage

 Restore or enhance 7 million acres of land for pollinators over the next 5 years through Federal actions and public-private partnerships



# **Syngenta Pollinator Strategy**

- Product Stewardship
- Operation Pollinator





## Syngenta - Commitment to Pollinator Health

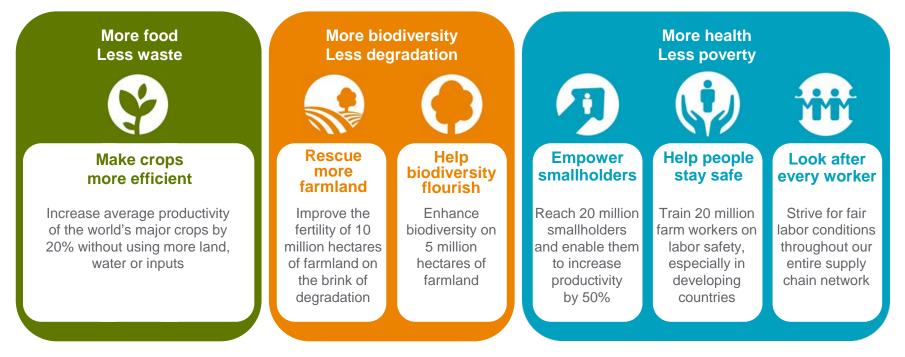
- Syngenta is concerned about bee health and is making sure that the use of our pesticides does not harm bees.
- Farming and our business depend on biodiversity.
- We conduct extensive safety research in order to help beekeepers and farmers find solutions.





## **The Good Growth Plan**

We've made six commitments to help grow more food using fewer resources, while protecting nature, and at the same time helping people in rural communities live better lives.



One planet. Six commitments.



# **Pollinator and Product Stewardship**

#### **Pollinators and Pesticide Stewardship Brochure**

#### **Guide to Seed Treatment Stewardship**

- Proper pesticide use starts with reading and following pesticide label directions and precautions.
- Reduce potential harm to pollinators
  - Communication & Outreach
  - Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
  - Utilize good pesticide stewardship proper rates, timing, application methods.
  - Seed Handling, Storage, Disposal









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# **Operation Pollinator – Global Overview**

An industry-leading program

#### Started in 2000



countries implemented worldwide



# a de la compañía de l



Part of our Good Growth Plan biodiversity commitment

Proves that commercial farming and positive environmental management can co-exist





>400,000

of farmland

ecosystem

services

in 2014

provided with

acres

# **Operation Pollinator Strategy**

Advancing sustainable agricultural landscapes while improving & enhancing the natural habitat for pollinators





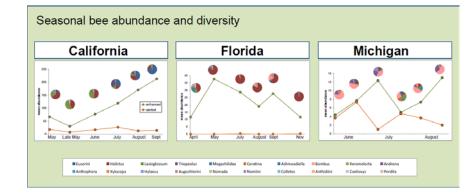
# **Operation Pollinator – Evaluate – U.S.**

## Objectives

- Evaluate the response of bee abundance and diversity to tailored pollinator habitats at multiple farms.
- Evaluate pollinator plantings in turf settings.
- Best practices for monarch butterflies.

### University Cooperators

- University of California, Davis
- University of Florida
- University of Kentucky
- Iowa State University
- Michigan State University
- N.C. State University

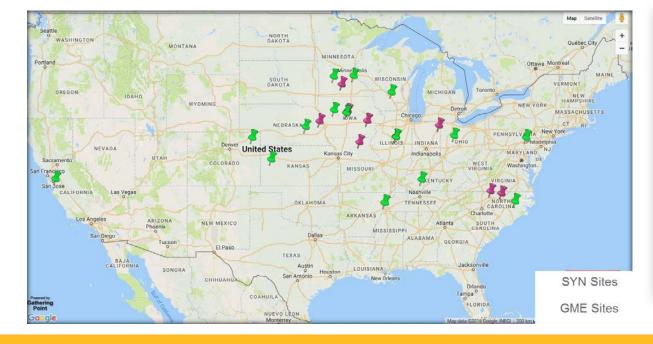




# **Operation Pollinator – Demonstrate – U.S.**

# Objectives

- Create awareness of OP
  - Syngenta customers and employees
- Showcase flowers for different regions of the U.S.







# Operation Pollinator – Syngenta U.S. Headquarters Greensboro, NC





# **Operation Pollinator – Communicate – U.S.**

# Key Messages

- Multifunctional landscapes
- Advancing sustainable landscapes while improving & enhancing the natural habitat for pollinators.
- Syngenta U.S. Bee Health
  - www.syngenta-us.com/beehealth



A healthy and vibrant level of biodiversity is essential for agriculture. Most crops depend on various pollinators, beneficial insects to control pests and fertile healthy soil structure. Syngenta is committed to promoting and protecting bee health.



# **Multifunctional Landscape Benefits**

 Proactive management of field margins and low productive land can create multifunctional benefits



#### **Buffer Strip**

#### **Field Margin**





# **Operation Pollinator Website – Golf Courses**

#### www.greencastonline.com/OperationPollinator

		🛠 OperationPollinator		
Home   Get Involved   FAQ	Market your Course   Custom	er Stories   In the News   /	Additional Resources	<b>5</b> 1 1



# **Operation Pollinator – Partnerships – U.S.**

- Collaboration among multiple stakeholders is key for creating opportunities for more pollinator habitat and food sources.
- Best Management Practices
  - Work with groups that have mutual interests in pollinator forage and habitat projects.
  - Rely on partners to establish field network & sites.
  - Opportunity to work with farmers, landowners and golf courses who are interested in biodiversity and conservation.





# **Operation Pollinator – Golf Courses**







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# **Regional Flower Mixtures – Applewood Seed Co.**



Bee Feed Mix



Western Pollinator Mix



Butterfly on Dwarf Godetia



Honey Bee Mix



Eastern Pollinator Mix



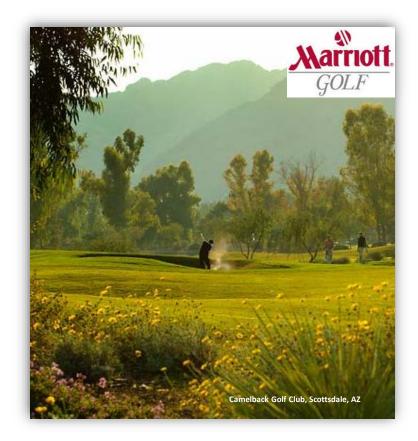
Honey Bee on Corn Poppy

Native seed from Applewood Seed Co., Arvada, Colo.



# **Marriot Golf – Commitment to Pollinators**

- Marriott Golf has established and continues to maintain Operation Pollinator sites.
- Syngenta provides guidance on establishment and maintenance and supplies the signage.
- Opportunities for community projects.
- Share the pollinator story and introduce the next generation to the game of golf.





# Ritz-Carlton Members Golf Club – Lakewood Ranch, FL

- Sean O'Brien Director of Golf Grounds & Beekeeper
- Award
  - Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary -Audubon International
- Community Engagement
  - School children education & benefits of pollinators
- Beehives Honey
  - Honey collected is used in the spa and restaurant







# The Bear Trace at Harrison Bay, TN

- Awards
  - TN Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award for Excellence in Parks and Recreation
  - Certified Audubon Cooperative
    Sanctuary Audubon International
- Two Operation Pollinator sites
  - Beside #1 tee complex
  - Between #10 green and #11 tee complex
- The project has been a great success and the areas are teaming with bees and butterflies.







## The Bear Trace at Harrison Bay, TN Operation Pollinator Preparation



Mowing the naturalized area with front deck mower.



Area mowed down with a triplex mower down to 1/4" and blown off again.

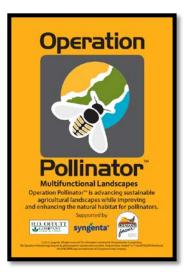


Area "greened" up and glyphosate applied.After a few days, aerified & pulled 3/4" cores.Coated with a layer of sand and used a steel drag mat to prepare the soil for planting.



# **Operation Pollinator - R.D. Offutt Company**

- Operation Pollinator Partnership
  - 2015/2016 950 acres
- Positive Outcomes
  - Increase in local awareness of pollinator habitats in agriculture landscapes
  - University of MN conducting studies on pollinators and beneficial insects
  - EPA visit to learn about the plantings and seed mixtures
  - Featured in Syngenta 2015 annual report
- Video
  - https://youtu.be/OqgSmq2f-l4







# **Collaborations & Partnerships**

#### **Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund**

The Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund A Unique Conservation Solution.

- Seed Mixtures
  - Custom seed mixtures that deliver maximum benefits for pollinators.
  - Cost-effective plantings, designed to maximize habitat quality and quantity.
  - Superior ability to manage early weed competition.
- Program Benefits
  - Streamlined non-government enrollment and adaptability for landowners
  - Maximum value per acre, optimizing bloom diversity and abundance throughout the growing season
  - Opportunity for beekeepers to work with landowners to improve forage.



# **Collaborations & Partnerships**

## Delta F.A.R.M. – Mississippi

 Farmers Advocating Resource Management



- Association of growers and landowners
- Conserve, restore and enhance the environment of the Northwest Mississippi
- Strive to implement sustainable agricultural practices.
- Pollinator habitat in agricultural landscapes
- www.deltafarm.org





# **Collaborations & Partnerships**

#### **Trees Forever – Illinois & Iowa**



- Advocate for trees and the natural environment
- Create ecosystems that help preserve biodiversity & pollinator habitat
- Voluntary conservation efforts of farmers and landowners
  - <u>www.treesforever.org</u>

#### Project Apis m. – California



- Provide seed mixes to almond growers for food for honey bees.
- www.projectapism.org

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# **Additional Pollinator Resources**





#### http://pollinator.org

#### **Monarch Collaborative**



#### www.keystone.org/our-work/ agriculture/monarch-collaborative



#### http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org



PROMOTING HEALTHY HABITATS FOR OVER A CENTURY.

http://growwise.org



## **Discussion**

• Other suggestions or questions?





Bringing plant potential to life



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