

The New England Pollinator Partnership

Protecting producers and pollinators across six states

Maine
New Hampshire
Vermont
Massachusetts
Connecticut
Rhode Island



What is it?

The New England Pollinator Partnership (NEPP) is an agreement between the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and participating landowners to help restore populations of the rusty patched bumble bee, monarch butterfly, and eight bumble bee species found throughout New England.

This partnership aims to increase pollinator habitat, reduce exposure of pesticides and pathogens to pollinators, and provide assurances to participating landowners that they will not be liable for harming protected pollinator species while carrying out pollinator conservation activities.

Participating landowners stand to benefit from increased abundance and diversity of crop pollinators and natural enemies (insects that help control crop pests).

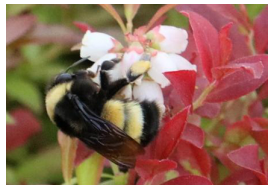


The covered species

Although conservation work done under the NEPP will benefit a wide suite of pollinators, the partnership focuses on three imperiled target species:



Rusty Patched Bumble Bee (*Bombus affinis*) - Federally Endangered. Hasn't been seen in New England in over a decade.



Yellow Banded Bumble Bee (*Bombus terricola*) - Not Warranted for listing. Population crashed from 2010 to 2014. Recovered to marginal levels in Northern New England.



Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) Under Review by USFWS

How to participate

Any landowner eligible for NRCS programs in New England can elect to participate.

Participants agree to:

- Implement enough NRCS conservation practices and management changes to meet the pollinator habitat requirements
- Work with the NRCS to develop a conservation plan
- Implement one or more of the core NRCS conservation practices
- Adhere to NEPP Best Management Practices, like maintaining no-spray buffers around established pollinator habitat

Core Practices




Participating landowners must implement at least one of the following Core NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) practices to participate in the New England Pollinator Partnership:

- Integrated Pest Management Plan (114)
- Pollinator Habitat Enhancement Plan (146)
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat Plan (142)
- Brush Management (314)
- Herbicide Weed Treatment (315)
- Conservation Cover (327)
- Field Border (386)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Wildlife Habitat Planting (420)
- Hedgerow Planting (422)
- Integrated Pest Management (595)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)
- Early Successional Habitat Development/Management (647)
- Wetland Restoration (657)

To continue to receive USFWS protections, simply maintain pollinator conservation practice(s) and abide by the NEPP Best Management Practices. Protections are offered for the entire 25-year life span of this agreement.

What do landowners get?

Participating landowners receive regulatory predictability. In other words, if in carrying out these conservation actions the federally endangered rusty patched bumble bee is harmed (aka: "take") you are not liable and will not be held accountable for that take. Further, if any pollinator species covered by this agreement (listed on front) are listed in the future as federally threatened or endangered, you will be granted the same liability protection for the newly listed species.

	Conservation Practice	What is it?	How does it help?
Conservation Cover		The creation of a perennial wildflower meadow.	Provides pollen and nectar forage, and nesting habitat. Known to increase abundance and richness of pollinators in adjacent flowering crop fields.
Early Successional Habitat Development/Management		Creating early successional habitat from forest or mowing existing habitats rotationally and outside of the growing season.	Eliminates the possibility of killing monarchs and other pollinators during mid-season cuts. Prescribes a mowing regime that will help the site to realize it's full potential as pollinator habitat.
Pest Management Conservation System		Growers adjust pesticide usage to minimize risks that pesticides pose to pollinators. May halt bloom time spraying, increase use of pest monitoring-based decisions, and increase preventive pest management strategies.	Helps transform crop fields into spaces more supportive of pollinators by reducing risks pesticides pose to pollinators.

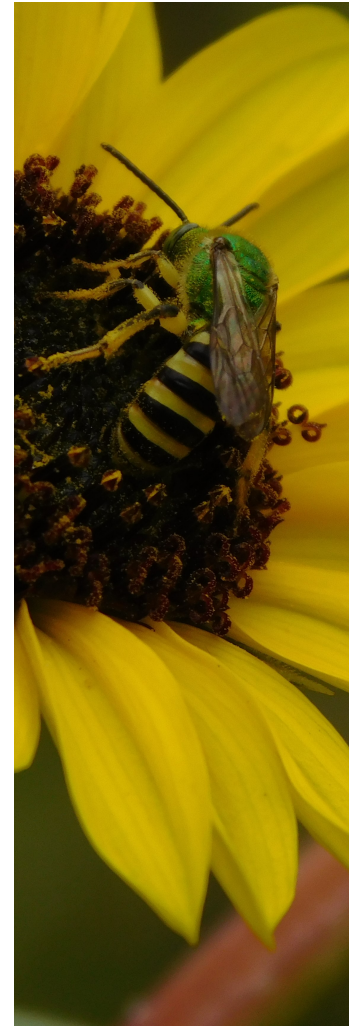


Photo credits
 Front: Rusty Patched, Sarah Foltz Jordan (Xerces); Monarch, Eric Venturini (Xerces); Yellow Banded, Sarah Foltz Jordan (Xerces).
 Back: Sidebar, table - top, Eric Venturini (Xerces); Table - middle: Toby Alexander (NRCS); Table - bottom: David Handley (UMaine Extension); Bicolored striped-sweat bee on sunflower, Eric Venturini (Xerces)

Additional information

To become a participating producer, contact your local NRCS Field Office. Use this web page to first locate your NRCS State Office, and from there, find your local NRCS Field Office.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/sitenav/national/states>

For general information, or to learn how to support this partnership in other ways, contact: Jeremy Markuson (Jeremy.Markuson@usda.gov).

Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island

Natural Resources Conservation Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

