



Oregon Bee Project Press Kit

For all media inquiries, questions about use of the logo or questions about the Oregon Bee Project, contact the Oregon Bee Project coordinating team at info@oregonbeeproject.org

TALK TO YOUR POLLINATOR HEALTH EXPERTS

Questions about a specific subject related to pollinator health? The Oregon Bee Project steering team is available to answer questions. Or reach the coordinating team to learn more about

Oregon Department of Agriculture

Sarah Kincaid, Entomologist with Insect Pest Prevention and Management
Contact about native bees and the Flagship Farm program at 503-986-6459.

Gilbert Uribe, Registration and Certification specialist with the Pesticides Program
Contact about pesticide licensing at 503-986-4752.

Oregon Department of Forestry

Christine Buhl, PhD, Forest Entomologist with Forest Health Program
Contact about Bees in Forests at 503-945-7396.

Oregon State University Extension Service

Andony Melathopoulos, PhD, Assistant Professor of Pollinator Health Extension
Contact about extension services, workshops and trainings, and honey bees at 541-452-3038.

LEARN MORE

Visit the Official Collaborative Resource Website at www.oregonbeeproject.org.

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THE MISSION

Bringing together Oregonians around a science-based strategy for protecting and promoting wild and managed bees through education, pollinator-friendly practices, and research.

THE DESCRIPTION

Oregon has a unique landscape of gardens, croplands, natural areas, and forests that help support and maintain approximately 500 species of bees. The State of Oregon is diligently working to maintain these pollinator species that are integral to the food supply and the natural environment around us.

Initiated in 2017, the Oregon Bee Project is a cooperative effort between the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), the Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Service, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), and a diverse set of stakeholders who are actively engaged in caring for our bees. Together these collaborators and supporters are launching several incredibly unique initiatives to the state of Oregon to maintain and enhance bee health. Key elements of the project include:

Training for Regional Bee Education Teams

The Oregon bee Project is training regional bee education teams built from existing volunteer networks within Oregon State University Master Gardeners and Oregon Master Beekeepers programs to talk to the public about bees and ways to support them (Photo credit: OSU, Andony Melathopoulos).

Oregon Bee Project Flagship Farms Program



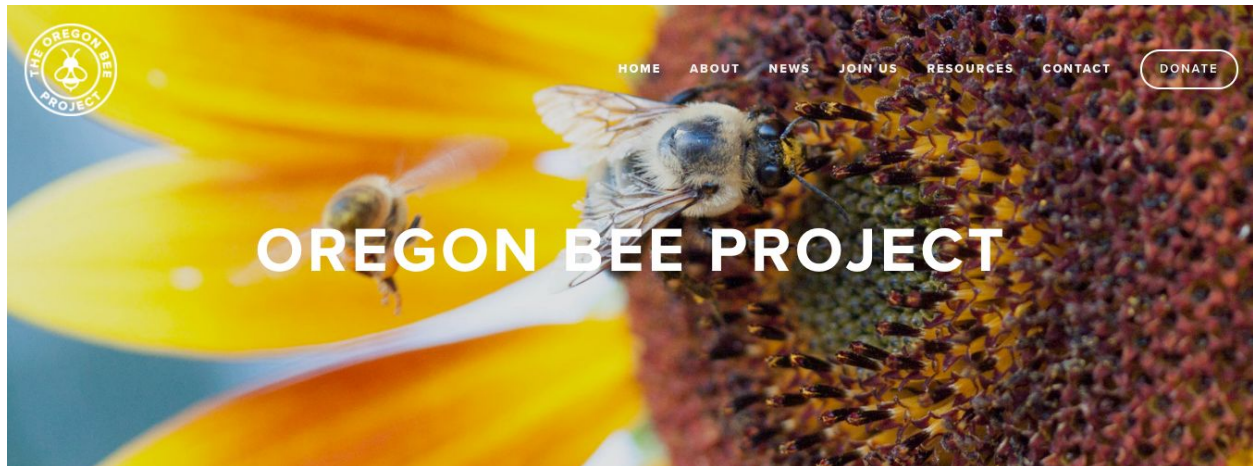
The Flagship Program is comprised of farmers and nursery owners who lead the way in promoting pollinator diversity through a combination of practices such as creating and maintaining habitat, utilizing Integrated Pest Management strategies, judicious use of pesticides, demonstrating good communication with beekeepers, and supporting crops that provide floral resources for bees (Photo credit: Samara Group, Olivia Guethling).

Oregon Bee Project Oregon Innovators



Oregon Innovators captures the farmers, foresters, land managers, landscapers, beekeepers, researchers, educators, and homeowners who are passionate about pollinator protection.(Photo credit: PNCA Student, Molly Alloy).

Print and online bee pollinator resources



The Oregon Bee Project is creating new resources geared towards a broad audience that are developed to highlight Oregon's bee diversity and what Oregonians can do to help keep Oregon bee-friendly. This includes a series of new digital and print tools from Oregon State University Extension Service.

Training and Engagement

There is considerable information available to the public on bee pollinators, but it is spread across many sources. The Project will expand training to urban and rural land-managers and beekeepers on how to reduce pesticide exposure, increase habitat and decrease losses to diseases and parasites. The Project will also provide training to volunteer groups (e.g., Master Gardeners, Beekeepers and Naturalists) in native bee taxonomy and survey methods to enhance our understanding of regional bee biodiversity. Volunteers will also engage people in their region to provide an accessible overview of how pollinator health is being addressed in Oregon. (Photo credit: OSU, Andony Melathopoulos).



The Oregon Bee Atlas: A statewide survey



The Oregon Bee Atlas is a statewide survey of Oregon's bees. Collecting survey data would involve training amateur groups, particularly in conjunction with the OSU Master Naturalist, Master Gardener, and Master Beekeeper programs, to collect and curate

bees from around the state and have them identified through ODA. As this initiative matures, the program would actively recruit collectors from areas around the state that historically, have not been sampled. Records will be housed on a publically accessible website operated by the [Oregon State Arthropod Collection](#) (Photo credit: ODA, Sarah Kincaid).

Tools for Decision Makers

Making real-time decisions around bee pollinator stewardship can be complicated. The Project will develop user-friendly decision support tools to help land managers make real-time decisions on the ground. This includes new extension material on bee stewardship that is specific to different land management contexts (Bee Protection Protocols), as well as to the diseases and



pests of managed bees that have been an important driver of bee losses. It is also imperative that bee declines are accurately diagnosed in order to properly address the drivers of decline. The Project includes new diagnostic services to help beekeepers diagnose disease and parasite problems their colonies face to reduce losses (Photo credit: ODA Insect Lab).

ORIGINS AND FUTURE

In 2013, Oregon experienced a tragic pesticide poisoning of bumble bees in a suburban big-box parking lot in the Portland area. These incidents became an international news story, prompting the Oregon Legislature to create a task force on Pollinator Health. A key recommendation of the task force was to put better tools and resources in the hands of licensed and unlicensed pesticide applicators to help them make better decisions when it comes to managing pests and pollinators. However, more than just education and outreach was needed for this happen: Oregonians must network together in a way that sparks the development of innovative solutions.

Together state agencies along with other leaders in industry, education, and research launched the cooperative effort, the Oregon Bee Project, in 2017 to coordinate the development of multiple statewide initiatives for pollinator health. The Oregon Bee Project is part of the National Pollinator Health Task force that promotes the health of pollinators, and was enacted as direct response to the Oregon House Bill 3362 “Education & Public Pesticide Safety Plan”.

The Oregon Bee Project is funded by grants from the FFAR (Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research) Pollinator Health Fund and USDA specialty crop block grant as well as donations from generous Oregon-based industry partners such as [GloryBee](#), Central Oregon Seeds, and the [Oregon State Beekeepers Association](#). The OBP is coordinated by staff from the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon State University, and Oregon Department of Forestry.

The Oregon Bee Project is a transparent, inclusive and agile initiative. The coordinating team is committed to not only increasing public awareness about resources available to support pollinator health, but also coordinating between agencies, researchers, growers, pesticide applicators, and the general public avoid incidents like the Wilsonville Bee Kill in 2013.

2018 POLLINATOR WEEK - *Help us Spread the Word*

Join the Oregon Bee Project during National Pollinator Week in celebrating our approximately 500 species of bees and all they do for us. Regional Bee Education Teams are partnering with Oregon Bee Project to organize events around the state. Every year these teams will host events centered around National Pollinator Week at education centers, farmers markets, farms, and gardens around the state.

Join an Event Near You

Celebrate Oregon’s Places, People, and Pollinators during National Pollinator Week, June 18–June 24, 2018.

Over 20 events will be held by community groups and bee specialists throughout the state. We ask you to join us in making Oregon’s events the biggest celebration of pollinators in the nation by attending an event near you. These hands-on and kid-friendly events will be like none other held in the country. At the events you could visit a live honey bee display, meet a beekeeper, experience a bee petting zoo with some of our wild native bee males (male bees don’t have stingers, but they are beautiful and furry),

and learn about pollinator gardening tips. Ask all the bee questions you can muster and get answers from bee biologists and pollinator experts. Activities will vary by location.

Find out more at www.oregonbeeproject.org/pollinator-week.

REPORTS & PUBLICATIONS

Link to [Oregon Bee Project Strategic Plan and Progress Report](#)

Link to [OBP Project Card](#), 2 pg handout

[Link to Frequently Asked Questions about bees.](#)