preserve the earth

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protect pollinators

Bats, bees, hummingbirds and butterflies are among the 200,000 animal species of pollinators worldwide. We rely upon them for the food we eat.

Pollinators are vital to our health, yet their survival is under threat. In recent decades, diseases have devastated colonies of bees and bats. Pesticides, loss of habitat and other environmental pressures also contribute to pollinator decline.

Bees are so important that farmers pay to transport colonies to pollinate crops where bee populations are waning.

Fruits, nuts and vegetables rely on pollinators to reproduce. If you enjoy fresh produce or the sight of flowers or forests, you can thank pollinators. Even lowly flies are important. Flies rank second to bees as efficient pollinators. They fertilize berries and fruit trees—including cocoa, used to make chocolate.

What can you do to protect pollinators? Plant flowers and trees that feed bees, butterflies and birds. Avoid using pesticides that kill pollinators. Provide water and friendly habitats.

Help protect #pollinators

United States Department of State
Bureau of International Information Programs

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