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## Native Plant Trust Celebrates National Pollinator Week June 22 to 28, Offers Resources to Support Pollinator Efforts across New England

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(Framingham, MA) Native Plant Trust, the nation's first plant conservation organization and the only one solely focused on New England's native plants, will celebrate Pollinator Week from June 22 to 28, 2020. Pollinators play a key role in the planet's health, but in recent years many pollinator species have faced severe population decline. Pollinator Week highlights the importance of these species and their critical role in maintaining ecosystems and biodiversity around the world.

Pollinators have a significant impact on the environment and on plant survival. "Approximately 75% of both food crops and flowering plants rely on ants, bees, beetles, butterflies, bats, birds, and other animals for pollination," notes Debbi Edelstein, Executive Director of Native Plant Trust. "Increasing the use of native plants in our gardens and outdoor spaces, and growing them without pesticides, will help create healthy environments for native pollinators." Plants and pollinators have co-evolved to benefit each other and the region by providing food, habitat, seed dispersal, and more. Native Plant Trust supports Pollinator Week to bring awareness and recognition to the special organisms that help New England's native plants flourish.

In recognition of the critical role pollinators play in our ecosystem, Native Plant Trust offers several educational opportunities and resources on the topic. On June 20, Native Plant Trust will offer a free Pollinator Week online talk, "Managing Yards for Plant Biodiversity," in partnership with Woods Hole Research Center. "We are pleased to continue offering learning opportunities using online tools, during a time when people are distancing from each other but becoming closer with nature," says Courtney Allen, Director of Public Programs at Native Plant Trust. "Regardless of where you live or how much you know about relationships between native plants and their pollinators, we have a program for you." Additional 2020 pollinator programs include Gardening for the Birds, Gardening for Habitat, Native Plants for Native Birds, and Plant-Insect Interactions.

Native Plant Trust offers additional resources to protect against pollinator decline, including Plant Finder, a free plant database for gardeners that is searchable by desired pollinator type, and a wide range of native plants that support pollinators for sale in its shops. Most of the plants are grown at Nasami Farm, Native Plant Trust's nursery, from seeds that were ethically collected in the wild and grown without any pesticides or other chemicals.

To register for programs and access resources, please visit [www.NativePlantTrust.org](http://www.NativePlantTrust.org).

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#### ABOUT NATIVE PLANT TRUST

Native Plant Trust is the nation's first plant conservation organization and the only one solely focused on New England's native plants. We save native plants in the wild, grow them for gardens and restorations, and educate others on their value and use. We are based at Garden in the Woods, a renowned native plant botanic garden that attracts visitors from all over the world. From this flagship property in Framingham, Massachusetts, 25 staff and many of our 1,500 trained volunteers work throughout New England each year to monitor and protect rare and endangered plants, collect and preserve seeds to ensure biological diversity, detect and control invasive species, conduct research, and offer a range of educational programs. Native Plant Trust also operates a nursery at Nasami Farm in western Massachusetts and manages six sanctuaries in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont that are open to the public. For more information, please visit [www.NativePlantTrust.org](http://www.NativePlantTrust.org).

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