

# Pollinator Conservation Program

The Xerces Society's Pollinator Conservation Program offers practical technical support on habitat restoration and land management for pollinators.

Working with farmers, gardeners, land managers, agencies, researchers and policy makers, we restore habitat for the world's bees, butterflies, and beneficial insects.

The Xerces Society manages the largest pollinator conservation program in the world. We work with farmers, gardeners, land managers, agency staff, and others to create habitat for bees, butterflies, and beneficial insects. Because of our trainings, restoration work, and publications, hundreds of thousands of acres of flower-rich habitat has been planted for these vital insects.

With regional offices across the United States, our staff of restoration ecologists, entomologists, plant ecologists, and researchers support pollinator and beneficial insect habitat restoration projects throughout North America, as well as in Europe and Asia. Our work is recognized by organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service as the global standard for effective, science-based pollinator conservation.

## Key Accomplishments:

- Since 2008, our work has led to the creation of more than 200,000 acres of pollinator habitat on farms, ranches, gardens, airports, golf courses, parks, and public lands.
- We have conducted hundreds of native pollinator workshops, government agency trainings, and educational seminars for more than 38,000 farmers, farm agency staff, gardeners, land managers, and other stakeholders.
- Using the best available science, we have written a wide variety of publications on pollinator and beneficial insect conservation, including books, fact sheets, and plant lists—most of which are available as free downloads from our website. Our online Pollinator Conservation Resource Center provides a comprehensive source of pollinator conservation information for farms, gardens, parks, natural areas, and more.
- In 2011, we wrote *Attracting Native Pollinators: Protecting North America's Bees and Butterflies*, a best-selling book on the protection and conservation of wild bees, butterflies, and other pollinators.



- Our newest book, *Farming with Native Beneficial Insects: Ecological Pest Control Solutions*, is a groundbreaking guide to farm habitat management for beneficial insects that provide natural pest control.
- Through our Bumble Bee Watch project, hundreds of volunteers have helped find new populations of at-risk bumble bees.
- We work closely with farmers and farm researchers to develop reduced risk pest control strategies that protect beneficial insects and lessen pesticide use.
- We help mission-driven companies source pollinator-safe ingredients and develop pollinator-friendly supply chains.
- In partnership with the native seed industry, we launched the largest milkweed mass-production effort ever conducted for monarch butterfly habitat restoration. As of 2014, this work has produced 35 million milkweed seeds; which, combined with our habitat restoration efforts, has resulted in the planting of milkweed on tens of thousands of acres.



## Research, Government, and Business Partnerships

The Xerces Society plays a critical role in translating the best available science into practical conservation policy and practice. Working with leading science advisors and research partners at land grant universities, we foster ground-breaking research on pollinator conservation, habitat restoration, and natural pest control with beneficial insects.

Through a formal partnership with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), we support a team of joint Xerces–NRCS staff biologists who provide pollinator-related technical support to the agency, and promote pollinator habitat conservation on farmland across the United States, including support for national efforts to create habitat specifically for honey bees and monarch butterflies.

In addition, we are working with a broad coalition of more than 40 businesses to make pollinator conservation a mainstream practice. Our business partners include leading organic and natural food companies, seed businesses, technology leaders, and more.

## About the Xerces Society

Founded in 1971, and named after the now extinct Xerces blue butterfly (*Glaucopsyche xerces*), the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation is the oldest and largest pollinator conservation organization in the United States. More information about our work can be found at:

[www.xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/](http://www.xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/).



### Photographs:

Front. Xerces Society field day in pollinator habitat meadow adjacent to cranberry bog in Massachusetts. (Photograph by Anne Averill, University of Massachusetts.)

Back, top. Examples of Xerces Society publications on the conservation of pollinators and other beneficial insects.

Back, bottom. Demonstration meadow at the NRCS Plant Materials Center in Lockeford, California. (Photograph by Amy Gomes, NRCS Lockeford PMC.)