

2026 Talking Points for the Xerces Society Habitat Kit Program

Participants

Updated annually at the start of each year.

We are thrilled that you are willing to contribute your time and effort to participate in the [Xerces Society Habitat Kit Program](#). Protecting and restoring habitat is a crucial step in the conservation of pollinators and other beneficial invertebrates. We are excited about working with you to create and sustain habitat. This document provides key talking points to help you share this program and your amazing project with the rest of the world.

Social Media and Tagging Xerces

When posting about the [Xerces Society Habitat Kit Program](#), you can help us spread the word about invertebrate and habitat conservation by including context about the Xerces Society's mission and our habitat kit program for any of your followers who don't already know.

Please tag us in your posts as @XercesSociety so we can see your progress!

Here are links to our social media pages:

- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#) (@xercessociety)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Bluesky](#)

General Xerces Information

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation is a donor-supported nonprofit organization that protects our world through the conservation of invertebrates and their habitats. Xerces works throughout North America to conserve pollinators and other invertebrates, protect endangered species, and reduce pesticide use and impacts. Our staff uses applied research, policy advocacy, public education, and on-the-ground habitat improvement to advance meaningful, long-term conservation. Xerces is the largest invertebrate conservation organization in the world. For over 50 years, we have

been champions of Earth's most biodiverse and overlooked animals, protecting the life that sustains us. Learn more at xerces.org.

General Habitat Kit Program Information

Disclaimer: The Xerces Habitat Kit Program is a community resource, not a grant.

- Pollinators are essential to our environment. The ecological service they provide is necessary for the reproduction of over 85% of the world's flowering plants, including more than two-thirds of the world's crop species.
- Many pollinators are in decline due to habitat loss, pesticide use, and introduced diseases. They need our help. Creating habitat is one of the best ways to support these important animals.
- One of the best ways to help declining pollinators and other wildlife is to restore high-quality habitats. Through the Xerces Society Habitat Kit Program, we provide plants and resources to folks who are willing to invest time, energy, and resources.
- We offer carefully selected, native, and regionally appropriate plant material directly to our partners for shovel-ready projects. We are currently offering habitat kits in eight regions of the United States to qualifying partners.
- Project proposals are selected based on several factors, including the ability to protect habitat areas from pesticide exposure.
- Since 2019, the Xerces Society Habitat Kit Program has distributed over 500,000 plants to our partners, free of charge.

Oregon

The Oregon Habitat Kit Program began in 2023. Over the past three years, Xerces has given away 16,491 plants (including 1,194 milkweed) to support 159 projects.

Problems invertebrates are facing

- Pollinators and other invertebrates are facing serious challenges across Oregon and beyond.
- Populations of bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects have declined due to a combination of habitat loss, pesticide use, invasive species, and climate change.

- The western monarch butterfly—which breeds and migrates through Oregon—has declined by more than 95% since the 1980s, largely due to the loss of milkweed and nectar plants that monarchs depend on for survival.
- Other native pollinators, including Oregon’s more than 600 species of native bees and nearly 170 butterfly species, are also struggling as wildflower-rich habitats are lost.
- Healthy pollinator populations are essential for Oregon’s ecosystems, farms, and communities. These insects support native plant reproduction, food production, and the biodiversity that sustains our landscapes and wildlife.

How our habitat kits create solutions

- The Oregon Monarch and Pollinator Habitat Kit Program helps address these declines by providing free, regionally appropriate native plant kits to farmers, land managers, schools, tribes, and community partners across the state.
- Each kit includes a mix of milkweed, the host plant for monarch caterpillars, and pollinator-friendly wildflowers and shrubs that provide food and shelter for monarchs, bees, and other beneficial insects. The plants are selected to be climate-smart and adapted to local growing conditions, supporting resilient and sustainable habitat creation.
- By working with local partners to establish safe, native plant habitat, the program restores habitat for monarchs and other pollinators, enhances biodiversity, and improves ecological connectivity across Oregon’s landscapes—from working lands and natural areas to urban greenspaces.
- Together, participants are building a network of thriving pollinator habitats that promote biodiversity, local stewardship, and lasting conservation impact.

Looking for other ways to help? Take the [Pollinator Pledge](#) and contribute to community science efforts by reporting monarch and milkweed sightings to the [Western Monarch Milkweed Mapper](#), or help track and conserve bumble bees through [Bumble Bee Watch](#) and the [Pacific Northwest Bumble Bee Atlas](#). Find more tips for creating pollinator-friendly spaces at xerces.org/monarchs and xerces.org/pollinator-conservation.