

STATE OF MINNESOTA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT



MARK DAYTON
GOVERNOR

Executive Order 16-07

**Directing Steps to Reverse Pollinator Decline and
Restore Pollinator Health in Minnesota**

I, Mark Dayton, Governor of the State of Minnesota, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, do hereby issue this Executive Order:

Whereas, Minnesota farmers provide food, feed, fuel, and fiber for the nation and the world, and agriculture is a cornerstone of Minnesota's economy;

Whereas, Minnesota's agricultural economy provides over 340,000 jobs and \$90 billion in economic activity;

Whereas, pollinators are essential to the reproduction of many native plants and cultivated food crops;

Whereas, pollinators sustain habitat that support wildlife and provide aesthetic and ecological benefits such as carbon storage and improved water quality;

Whereas, more than 200,000 pollinator species including insects, birds, bats, and other animals exist worldwide; including insect pollinators such as bees, wasps, flies, butterflies, moths, and beetles that are critical to our food production system;

Whereas, bees are considered to be the most efficient and important pollinators for our food crops; the estimated annual value of honey bee pollination alone for food production is \$17 billion dollars while that of native pollinators is estimated at \$6 billion;

Whereas, over the past decade there has been a significant loss of pollinators including honey bees, native bees, butterflies, moths, birds and bats;

Whereas, bees and other pollinator populations have been in decline in Minnesota and across the country due to a variety of pressures including habitat loss, pesticides, diseases, and parasites;

Whereas, the Special Registration Review conducted by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture found sufficient scientific evidence that neonicotinoid pesticides present toxicity concerns for honey bees, native bees, as well as other pollinating insects; and

Whereas, pollinator decline is serious and requires immediate attention to ensure the sustainability of our food production systems, avoid economic impact on our farmers and rural communities, and to protect the health of the environment in Minnesota.

Now, Therefore, I hereby order that:

1. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) shall take immediate action to implement the recommendations in the Department’s Special Registration Review of Neonicotinoid Pesticides, including:
 - a. Requiring a “verification of need” prior to the use of neonicotinoid pesticides, where appropriate;
 - b. Review pesticide product labels and implement restrictions, as appropriate, to minimize impact on pollinator communities;
 - c. Increase inspections and enforcement of label requirements for pesticides that are acutely toxic to pollinators;
 - d. Develop pollinator stewardship materials for pesticides to minimize non-target exposures; and
 - e. Continue to develop and promote best management practices designed to protect and enhance pollinator health in Minnesota.
2. The Environmental Quality Board (EQB) shall convene agency leadership and Minnesotans to implement this Executive Order; including the following steps:
 - a. The EQB shall establish an Interagency Pollinator Protection Team to provide operational support, ensure interagency coordination, develop cross agency policies and programs, and report regularly on progress;
 - b. The Interagency Pollinator Protection Team shall consist of designees of the Departments of Administration, Agriculture, Corrections, Education, Health, Natural Resources, Transportation, Board of Water and Soil Resources, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the Minnesota Zoo;

- c. The Interagency Pollinator Protection Team shall develop statewide pollinator goals and metrics and report on the progress toward those goals in a report to the EQB by December 1 of each year. The report shall include recommendations for pollinator policy, research needs, and budget recommendations; and
 - d. Member agencies of the EQB will contribute available staff resources as requested by the EQB Chair for purposes of carrying out the work directed by this Executive Order.
- 3. The Governor's Committee on Pollinator Protection is created to advise the Governor, the Environmental Quality Board, the Interagency Pollinator Protection team, and participating agencies on pollinator policy and programs.
 - a. The committee shall consist of up to 15 members appointed by the Governor with relevant experience in agriculture, conservation, education, academia, or local government.
 - b. The committee will do the following:
 - i. Promote statewide collaboration on pollinator protection efforts;
 - ii. Raise public awareness of pollinator issues;
 - iii. Review and comment on agency pollinator programs, reports, and recommendations; and
 - iv. Identify and support opportunities for local and public-private partnerships.
- 4. The Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) shall develop an integrated pest management strategy to minimize pesticide use on public lands administered by the Department of Natural Resources; and shall develop a strategy to maximize restoration, creation, and management of habitat for pollinators on DNR administered land consistent with the DNR's ecological, economic, and recreational mission and mandates.
- 5. The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) shall direct work to restore and improve high quality pollinator habitat by:
 - a. Incorporating pollinator habitat into BWSR programs, including wetland protection and restoration, conservation easements, agricultural conservation practices, and urban water quality projects;
 - b. Creating and updating program policies and technical resources to enhance opportunities for pollinator habitat restoration;
 - c. Coordinate with other agencies, conservation partners, and researchers to use best available science; and
 - d. Guiding program and project improvements by measuring outcomes, evaluating restoration projects, and documenting successful restoration strategies.

6. The Commissioner of the Department of Transportation (MnDOT) shall manage state-owned transportation properties and rights of way to create, protect, and enhance pollinator habitat.
7. The Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) shall manage closed landfills under its supervision to create, protect, and enhance pollinator habitat.
8. The Commissioner of Administration shall take immediate measures to support pollinator health on the State Capitol Complex, other state buildings, and where applicable on leased property, including:
 - a. The purchase of neonicotinoid plants and pesticide products are prohibited for use on the Capitol Complex, unless no other suitable product is available;
 - b. Pollinator friendly plants shall be included in the Capitol Landscaping Design Plan, as part of the Capitol Preservation, where practical;
 - c. The State's Design Guidelines and the Minnesota Sustainable Building Guidelines shall be modified to incorporate that products must be neonicotinoid free on all state funded projects, where practical;
 - d. The Department of Administration will work with leased properties where the State is the sole (or majority) lessee to incorporate nonuse of neonicotinoid applied plants and neonicotinoid pesticide products at leased buildings; and
 - e. To the extent available and verifiable, state contracts must accommodate the purchasing of neonicotinoid free plants and pesticides.

This Executive Order is effective fifteen days after publication in the State Register and filing with the Secretary of State, and shall remain in effect until rescinded by proper authority or until it expires in accordance with Minnesota Statute, section 4.035, subdivision 3.

In Testimony Whereof, I have set my hand on this 25th day of August, 2016.



Mark Dayton
Governor

Filed According to Law:



Steve Simon
Secretary of State

