

## Look for the Bee Signs at Chatham Marketplace!

The Chatham County Center of North Carolina Cooperative Extension is having a Pollinator Week Celebration at our local co-op grocery store, Chatham Marketplace, on June 28, 2008. We have identified all the products in the store that depend on pollinators, so when you see the bee symbol you can thank them for making that food possible!



Look for this symbol in Chatham Marketplace identifying all the products that depend on pollinators

## Have You Hugged Your Pollinator Today?

Bees, flies, wasps, moths, butterflies, beetles, birds, and bats pollinate 80 percent of our flowering plants and one third of our human food crops. The National Academy of Sciences has reported that there is direct evidence of the decline of some pollinator species in North America. And, recently, Colony Collapse

Disorder of honey bees has alarmed the agricultural industry.



## Important Facts about Honey Bees

- ◆ Honey bees are the primary insect pollinator of approximately 100 crops nationwide.
- ◆ Beekeepers temporarily move their hives into fields and orchards while the crop is blooming for the bees to pollinate the flowers.
- ◆ Bee-dependent crops account for \$47 billion every year, of which \$14.6 billion is directly attributed to honey bees.
- ◆ Cotton is pollinated by honey bees so thank them for the clothes on your back!
- ◆ **Honey bees are responsible for one-third of everything that people eat every day!**



## Did You Know...?

Without **honey bees**, we wouldn't have these foods:

Apples	Squash
Oranges	Strawberries
Grapes	Avocados
Blueberries	Almonds
Raspberries	Broccoli
Cherries	Cucumbers
Citrus	Onions
Peaches	Watermelons
Asparagus	Celery
Carrots	Cantaloupes
Almonds	Honey



Many other foods that we eat every day depend on pollinators:

- ◆ **Cooking oils** made from sunflower, safflower, and soybean require pollination by insects
- ◆ **Coffee and tea** are pollinated by bees and flies
- ◆ **Chocolate** is made from cacao which is pollinated by a tiny fly no bigger than the head of a pin
- ◆ **Greenhouse tomatoes** are pollinated by domesticated bumble bees
- ◆ **Meat and dairy** cows eat bee-pollinated feed and forage crops

## What is Pollination and Who Does It?

Pollination is a vital stage in the life cycle of flowering plants. When pollen is moved within a flower or carried from one flower to another of the same species it leads to fertilization. This transfer of pollen is necessary for healthy and productive native and agricultural ecosystems. Pollination ensures that a plant will produce full-bodied fruit and a full set of fertile seeds. With no pollination at all, most plants could not produce fruit nor set seed and many of the foods we eat would no longer be available. The plants that many wild animals depend on for food and shelter would also disappear.

About 75% of all flowering plant species need the help of animals to move their heavy pollen grains from plant to plant for fertilization.



Most pollinators (about 200,000 species) are beneficial insects such as bees, wasps, butterflies, moths, beetles, and flies.

A small percentage of pollinators are vertebrates such as birds, bats, and small mammals.

Source: [www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org)

## What Can You Do?

**Watch for pollinators**—learn which pollinators frequent your community

**Reduce your impact**—reduce pesticide use, increase green spaces and protect pollinator habitat

**Plant for pollinators**—create pollinator-friendly habitat with native flowering plants that supply pollinators with nectar, pollen, and nesting sites

**Become a beekeeper**—learn more at [www.chathambeekeepers.org](http://www.chathambeekeepers.org)



To learn more about how to protect and attract pollinators, visit Cooperative Extension's Growing Small Farms website at [www.growingsmallfarms.org](http://www.growingsmallfarms.org) and enter "pollinator" into the search engine.



# The Importance of Pollinators



## National Pollinator Week Celebration:

June 28, 2008

10:00 am-2:00 pm

The Lawn at Chatham Mills  
Pittsboro, NC

Chatham County Center  
North Carolina Cooperative Extension