

Bee informed: celebrating Australian Pollinator Week 2024

9 November 2024

Today marks the beginning of Australian Pollinator Week, a time to recognise the incredible diversity of pollinators that underpin Australian agriculture and our environment. CropLife Australia, the national industry organisation for the plant science sector, and our members are committed to ensuring the health and viability of Australia's pollinator populations.

Matthew Cossey, Chief Executive Officer of CropLife Australia, remarked, "Pollinators are integral to our biodiversity and agricultural productivity. While the European honey bee is widely celebrated, Australia's pollinators encompass numerous species—from native bees to beetles, flies, birds, butterflies and bats. Each of these creatures plays a vital role in pollination, which is critical for both our natural ecosystems and food production."

CropLife and our members continue to invest heavily in stewardship initiatives that support pollinator health and facilitate sustainable farming practices. The Pollinator Protection Initiative, a comprehensive program promoting the safe co-existence between agriculture and pollinators, remains at the forefront of these efforts. It includes:

- **BeeConnected®**: An award-winning app, developed in collaboration with the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council, is designed to help farmers and beekeepers communicate about farming activities. The use of BeeConnected® has been recommended as part of best-practice farming and bee keeping practices.
- **Seed Treatment Stewardship Strategy**: A best-practice guide for the handling and planting of treated seed, ensuring that the movement of pest management products is carefully managed to minimise risks to pollinators.

"Emerging threats like the Varroa mite underscore the importance of diverse pollinators in maintaining agricultural resilience. In light of these threats to managed honey bee hives, we need effective solutions to help beekeepers protect their bees and enhance their resilience. R&D in plant science plays a pivotal role in creating the tools and innovations needed to protect hive health and manage hive hygiene.

Pollinator Week serves as a reminder that food security and the protection of our natural ecosystems relies on the entire spectrum of pollinators, along with the means to preserve their health. Whether it's a large-scale farm or in a backyard garden, everyone can help to create a pollinator-friendly environment.

Mr Cossey concluded, "CropLife and our members are steadfast in our commitment to advancing stewardship practices that protect Australia's pollinators. We work alongside farmers, environmental land managers, and beekeepers to share the latest knowledge, ensuring a thriving environment for these essential creatures."

Discover more about CropLife Australia's Pollinator Protection Initiative at stewardshipfirst.com.au.

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About CropLife Australia

CropLife Australia is the national peak industry organisation representing the plant science sector in Australia. CropLife's members are the world-leading innovators, developers, manufacturers and formulators of crop protection and crop biotechnology products. The plant science industry, worth more than \$31.6 billion a year to Australian agricultural production, provides products to protect crops against pests, weeds and diseases, as well as developing crop biotechnologies key to the nation's agricultural productivity, profitability and sustainability. CropLife is a part of the plant science industry's 91 country international federation.