Protect Our Pollinators
Buzz Words newsflash

February 2018

Upcoming Events/Presentations

Feb

22-25 **CT Flower & Garden Show**, CT Convention Center, Hartford
Planting for Pollinators - Pesticides & Pollinators displays

March

10 – **NOFA** - WCSU, Danbury
Factors Influencing Pollinator Decline presentation & information table

14 – **Guilford Garden Club** program: *Pollinator Decline and What We Can Do to Help*

17 – **CT Master Gardener Symposium** Connecticut College, New London, *Planting for Pollinators* display

20 – **New Mornings Market**, Woodbury program: *Pollinators & Pesticides: A Look to the Future*

22 – **Danbury Adult Education** program: *Pollinators and How We Can Help Them*

April

18 – **Wilton Pollinator Pathway**, Ridgefield Library program: *Pesticides and Pollinators*

21 – **Earth Day, Newtown** Middle School
Earth Day, Woodbury
Information booth & Children's crafts

24 – **Garden Club of Newtown** program: *We Need Our Pollinators : Who They Are and How We Can Help Them*

May

5 – **New Morning Market**, Woodbury
Concert for Pollinators

8 – **Pomperaug Valley Garden Club**, Woodbury, program: *Overview Pesticides and Pollinators*

30 – **Southbury Adult Education**, Pomperaug High School, Southbury, program: *Pollinators and How We Can Help Them*

Go to our website for event details and additional program dates:
www.Propollinators.org

Restricted Use Now in Effect for Neonicotinoid Insecticides

The CT DEEP's Restricted Use Policy covering the Neonicotinoid class of insecticides is in effect as of January 1, 2018. Only licensed pesticide applicators are permitted to purchase and apply Neonicotinoid pesticides. Products containing Imidacloprid, Clothianidin, Dinotefuran, and Thiamethoxam are changed from general use to restricted use as defined by Public Act 16-17.

This restriction applies to all stored materials. Homeowners should check garages and storage sheds for any of these products. Products containing these ingredients should be disposed of properly. All pesticides, which include insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, and rodenticides, can be brought to Hazardous Waste Day events held throughout the state. For a complete list of locations and dates, go to www.HRRA.org

Local Groups Take the Lead on Pollinator Pathway

A group of conservation proponents have come together to form a "pollinator pathway" in Wilton. This is a joint project of the Wilton Land Conservation Trust, Woodcock Nature Center, Norwalk River Watershed Association, Wilton Garden Club, and Wilton Go Green.

The idea of a pathway to support pollinators originated in Oslo, Norway where they built the first "bee highway" consisting of numerous nectar-rich flower stations to provide sustenance for bees around the city.

The Wilton group is working on a similar project in their town. The proposed pathway will meander through the town, connecting green spaces from the town's center to Devil's Den. The Pathway will create a corridor of contiguous pollinator-friendly habitat that will benefit birds, bees, butterflies, and other wildlife species. Homeowners are encouraged to participate by planting pollinator gardens that are free of harmful pesticides.

Protect Our Pollinators salutes the group's efforts and supports this wonderful project. And who knows… perhaps other towns will take similar steps to help our endangered pollinators.

For information on the Pollinator Pathway, visit facebook.com/WiltonPollinatorPathway.

Weed'n Feed Products – Harmful, Wasteful and Often Unnecessary

Weed'n Feed products are a combination of herbicides (usually a combination of 2,4-D, dicamba and mecoprop) and a synthetic fertilizer used to strengthen lawns and eliminate weeds such as dandelions and other broadleaf plants. While Weed'n Feed products are heavily marketed and widely sold as convenience products in the U.S., they are banned in Canada.

There are many reasons why they should be avoided including ineffectiveness over time and some real environmental and health concerns:

1) Uneven, excessive application.

2) Granular products can pollute water resources.

3) Birds, bees and other Pollinators are put at risk.

4) Chemicals are easily tracked indoors.

5) Health risks associated with synthetic herbicides.

Mosquito Mister

Pyrethroids for Treating Ticks - What You Need to Know

Pyrethroids are synthetically produced pesticides used in tick control. Many concentrated formulations are applied by commercial lawn care companies. The most widely used pyrethroid is permethrin. Others include allethrin, bifenthrin, and cyfluthrin. For a more complete list, go to our website at www.Propollinators.org.

Most pyrethroids are extremely toxic to bees. 70% of all native bees are ground nesters, often found in areas where these pesticides are broadcast. Pyrethroids are toxic to fish and should be kept away from bodies of water. They are highly toxic to cats and while no data currently exists for risks to children, it is generally believed that children are especially sensitive to all pesticides which put's them at risk for harmful toxic effects.

Safer alternatives include Garlic Oil and MET-52. For a list of things you can do to protect yourself, your family, and pets from ticks, go to Propollinators.org.

Mosquito Misting Devices – A New Concern

If you haven't heard about mosquito misters, please be aware of the potential dangers that these devices pose. Mosquito misting systems are timed-release outdoor residential misting systems that disperse chemicals into your yard and potentially your neighbor's yard, putting other people, pets, wildlife and pollinators at risk.

These devices automatically spray the pesticide of one's choice on a continual basis. They are sometimes installed on yard perimeters or on fences where they will spray toxic pesticides every few minutes and at a height where **children, pets and even unsuspecting adults could be sprayed.**

Additionally, since it is likely that broad-spectrum pesticides will be used in these devices, **many non-target and beneficial insects will be at risk.** Bees and other pollinators already face a myriad of chemicals in their everyday habitats. And we know that many pesticides have a synergistic effect when combined with other pesticides and with other stressors that pollinators face.

Mosquito misters are not subject to any federal regulations because the EPA does not regulate such equipment. These devices are considered "application equipment" and therefore are not regulated.

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has agreed that these devices should be regulated before people and/or animals are seriously hurt. Proposed legislation will be raised in this year's session of the General Assembly to regulate these devices before summer. **Please support efforts to ban mosquito misters** by contacting your state legislator or the co-chairs of the State Environmental Committee: Craig.Miner@cga.ct.gov; kennedy@senatedems.ct.gov and Mike.Demicco@cga.ct.gov.