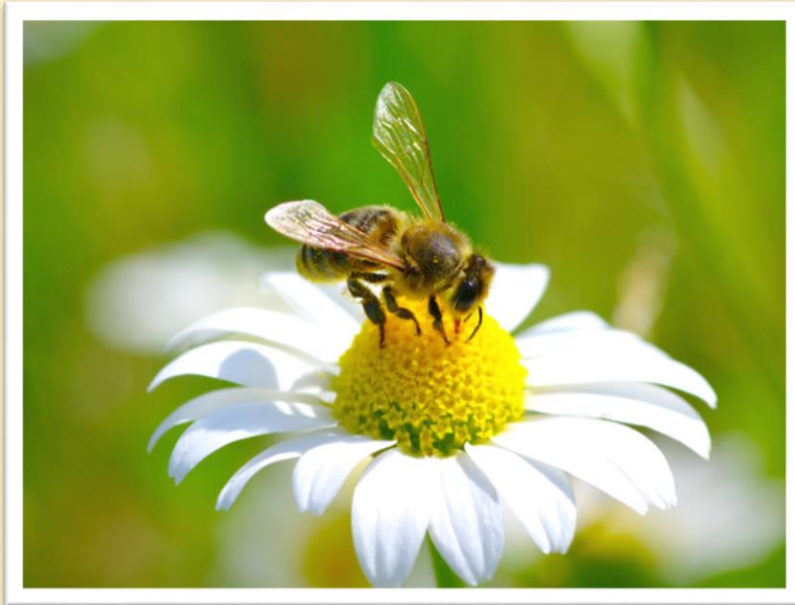


Europe, the climate and the conservation of wild pollinators

More than 180,000 plant species, including 1,200 agricultural crops, worldwide depend on pollination for their reproduction. But different species of bees are increasingly threatened by both human activity leading to habitat loss and



global climate change. Started as an initiative of the US Senate in 2007, World Pollinator Week is now a global event that takes place every year between June 22 and 28. There are also numerous initiatives at the national level, including in EU member states. The Netherlands is the second largest exporter of agricultural products

in the world after the United States. Recognizing the crucial role of wild bees in the pollination of agricultural crops, especially for fruit and vegetable plants, in 2018 the country developed a national pollinator strategy. The strategy is signed by 43 governmental and non-governmental partners and includes 70 initiatives aimed at creating more nesting sites for wild bees and stabilizing their sources of food supply. All these initiatives are aimed at measures that allow nature and agriculture to coexist. Dutch cities are also joining the initiative. Utrecht is

building bee stops – bus stops with roofs planted with native plant species that attract bees and absorb dust particles and rainwater. Since 2018, 316 such stops have been installed so far. Amsterdam is working on



various bee-friendly initiatives, which include installing "bee hotels" (hollow plant stems or thin bamboo that provide nesting cavities for solitary bees), replacing grass in public spaces with native, flowering plant species, and stopping the use of pesticides to kill weeds in public areas.



Global warming is believed to be a major cause of the decline in wild bee species diversity. Some of them can only survive in a narrow temperature range. As temperatures in their traditional habitats rise, the places where they can live and reproduce are becoming fewer and fewer. These small insects contribute not only to the formation of natural ecosystems, but also directly increase the yields of agricultural crops. Today, monitoring the changes and quality of their habitats is of utmost importance in the age of climate change.

