Biodiversity: Helping Farmers Grow Healthy Food for a Hungry World

Biodiversity is essential for plant breeding, pollination and diversity of food. It sustains the ecosystems that underpin fertile soils and plant pollination.

Beyond its role in increasing food production, conserving biodiversity and enriching wildlife, biodiversity also helps preserve genetic diversity, improve carbon sequestration in soil, mitigate floods and gives people the chance to enjoy nature. Increasingly, though, biodiversity is under threat as wild habitats are lost to climate change and urbanization.

Partnering for impact

To help protect biodiversity, Syngenta is committed to building on its rich network of strategic sustainability partnerships with non-governmental organizations, the food value chain, agricultural businesses and farmers to increase the impact we can make together.

The interconnectedness of agriculture and the natural world is at the heart of the commitment by Syngenta to help biodiversity flourish as part of **The Good Growth Plan**. More than a third of all crops depend on pollinators for propagation, and the global value of pollinators is roughly $221 billion each year.

The role of modern agriculture

Agriculture protects and restores biodiversity on farms in several ways. Today, many farmers establish plant habitats on less productive land, such as in field margins and around waterways, as well as improve biodiversity within planted fields. This helps reintroduce local species, provide buffers for soil and water conservation, and reconnect habitats for wildlife.

Operation Pollinator is one example of biodiversity in action. It's an international initiative aimed at boosting the number of pollinating insects – such as bees – on farms and golf courses and other landscapes. Started 20 years ago, Operation Pollinator creates habitats for pollinating insects and wildlife by planting field margins with local wildflowers across 30 countries in Europe, North America, Latin America and Asia. These pollinators play a key role in the ag economy. Scientists believe that for every three acres of marginal land planted to benefit pollinators, 100 acres will experience a significant positive impact. Bees alone contribute nearly $19 billion to the value of cropproduction in the U.S. annually.

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R.D. Offutt – A commitment to protecting natural resources

R.D. Offutt Farms (RDO) is a family-owned and operated potato farm headquartered in Fargo, North Dakota, and the largest potato grower in the United States. Founded in the early 1960s by Ron Offutt in partnership with his father, protecting natural resources has long been a priority at RDO. They began planting trees in 1990 to replace those harvested for field development. Since then, they have invested more than $150,000 to plant more than 300,000 trees around fields in Hubbard County, Minnesota.

In addition to planting trees, and through an ongoing partnership with Syngenta and Operation Pollinator since 2015, RDO has planted more than 600 acres of pollinator habitat in the corners of potato fields where pivot irrigation systems don't reach. The University of Minnesota has conducted research studies on RDO habitats, and found that when well established, plantings conserve pollinator populations and show promise as a method of ecological intensification.

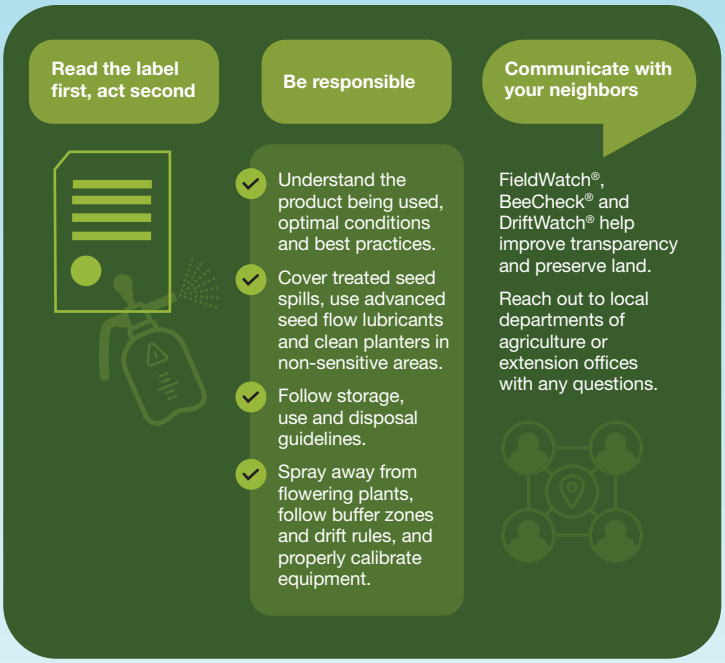
During 2021, RDO announced the planting of an additional 200 acres of pollinator habitat with native seed mixes created for Minnesota's climate. RDO and Syngenta are collaborating with Pete Berthelsen, a renowned wildlife conservationist and pollinator habitat expert and president of Conservation Blueprint, for project design – and the Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund which has provided seed mixtures.

"Sustainable agriculture started a long time ago at RDO," said RDO Farm President Keith McGovern. "As farmers, we rely on the soil, water and natural resources to grow our crop. On the field or off, we take great care to protect the environment, whether that means investing in soil health, planting trees and pollinators, or managing natural wooded acres. We are proud to play our part and it's the right thing to do."

A focus on product stewardship

Protecting pollinators begins with product stewardship. Understanding product labels, using products effectively and communicating with beekeepers helps ensure continued access to crop protection technologies.

That's why – before using any crop protection product – farmers and applicators are strongly encouraged to follow three steps to help ensure these technologies are used responsibly.



Bottom line

Ensuring a sustainable food supply requires each of us to play our part in preserving our land – and protecting pollinators. No matter your place in providing food for the planet, it is everyone's job to use crop protection products responsibly in order to ensure these important tools remain available to help farmers protect their crops. This will help us all to conserve biodiversity and sustainably feed a growing global population.

R.D. Offutt Farms, America's largest potato grower, has turned hundreds of acres into a refuge for pollinators.

Classification: PUBLIC

About Syngenta

Syngenta is one of the world's leading agriculture companies. Our ambition is to help safely feed the world while taking care of the planet. We aim to improve the sustainability, quality and safety of agriculture with world class science and innovative crop solutions. Our technologies enable millions of farmers around the world to make better use of limited agricultural resources. With 28,000 people in more than 90 countries we are working to transform how crops are grown. Through partnerships, collaboration and The Good Growth Plan we are committed to improving farm productivity, rescuing land from degradation, enhancing biodiversity and revitalizing rural communities. To learn more visit www.syngenta.com and www.goodgrowthplan.com. Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Syngenta and www.twitter.com/SyngentaUS.

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This document contains forward-looking statements, which can be identified by terminology such as 'expect', 'would', 'will', 'potential', 'plans', 'prospects', 'estimated', 'aiming', 'on track' and similar expressions. Such statements may be subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause the actual results to differ materially from these statements. For Syngenta, such risks and uncertainties include risks relating to legal proceedings, regulatory approvals, new product development, increasing competition, customer credit risk, general economic and market conditions, compliance and remediation, intellectual property rights, implementation of organizational changes, impairment of intangible assets, consumer perceptions of genetically modified crops and organisms or crop protection chemicals, climatic variations, fluctuations in exchange rates and/or commodity prices, single source supply arrangements, political uncertainty, natural disasters, and breaches of data security or other disruptions of information technology. Syngenta assumes no obligation to update forward-looking statements to reflect actual results, changed assumptions or other factors.

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