



# Bee City USA Annual Report for 2018 Pollinator Conservation & Education DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE



## EDUCATION & OUTREACH

**Durham Farm Day** - Held annually during mid-August, this one-day event highlights the importance of farming and enlightened agricultural activities on both commercial and residential land and gardens in Durham. Key activities include tours and demonstrations at local agricultural and dairy farms, “Food Friendly Yards”, and University and Cooperative Extension research project locations. In 2017, “Bees and Pollinators” was the “Farm Day” theme. Durham “Farm Day” is a popular event in the Seacoast region of New Hampshire where approximately 1,000 persons attended in both 2017 and 2018.

**Memorial Day Parade** – During this annual event, the Durham Agricultural Commission has a “mobile spring vegetable garden” (aka a float) in the parade. In 2017, 14 school children – plus the Town Administrator -- dressed up and marched in Bee Costumes to highlight Durham recently becoming a BeeCity USA “town.”

**Pollinator Friendly Yards** – This PP Presentation briefly explains both the importance and benefits of making residential yards “pollinator-friendly.” The presentation is shown to local school groups and at civic activities in town.

A November 2018 Article in American Bee Journal described Durham, NH becoming the first Bee City USA-recognized town in New England. The article described both the types of activities and the key persons involved in Durham being a pollinator-friendly community where “residents share a strong belief in protecting and preserving their natural resources.”

## POLLINATOR HEALTH & HABITAT

**“Bee-Friendly to Pollinators” Bookmark** – At the suggestion of Town Library Trustee, 500 bookmarks were created to increase awareness about five things that can be done: 1) re-think your lawn, 2) plant flowers/herbs in your garden, 3) plant fruiting trees and shrubs, 4) favor the growth of native trees and shrubs, and 5) bee-aware there are many types of bees.

**“Food Friendly Yard”** – The Durham Agricultural Commission established a program to encourage town residents to participate in home food production and small-scale farming. A “Food Friendly Yard” is a nourishing, chemical-free space for people, wildlife, and pollinating insects. Residents who commit to practicing food friendly yard activities are recognized by a “Food Friendly Yard” sign.

The “Re-Think Your Lawn: Wildflowers are “Bee-utiful” initiative is based on the premise that you can create or maintain your lawn for multiple purposes including: aesthetics, diversity, and concern for a healthy environment. Specific recommendations are provided regarding planting/re-seeding, lawn mowing, and beneficial wildflowers. As part of this initiative, a “Dandelions are Bee-utiful” contest was held during April – May 2018 to encourage town residents to both recognize and demonstrate the importance of dandelions for honey bees and other pollinators.

## POLICIES & PRACTICES

The Bee City USA – Durham, NH Working Group reports to the Durham Agricultural Commission. The Durham Agricultural Commission was established in 2011 to encourage the development of regional agriculture that will lead to a working landscape of actively managed gardens, farms and forests. For further details, see the November 2018 Article in American Bee Journal “Durham, NH: New England’s First Bee City USA”.

**Recommended Locally Native Plant Species List**—<https://extension.unh.edu/resource/wildflower-mixes-trial-new-hampshire>

**Regional Native Plant Supplier List**—To be developed.

[https://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource006628\\_Rep9500.pdf](https://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource006628_Rep9500.pdf)

<https://extension.unh.edu/resource/pollinator-plants-northern-new-england-gardens-fact-sheet>

**Pollinator Friendly Integrated Pest Management Plan**—To be developed.

## CONTACT US!

**Committee**—Bee City USA Working Group (of Durham Agricultural Commission)

**Website**—[https://www.ci.durham.nh.us/boc\\_agricultural](https://www.ci.durham.nh.us/boc_agricultural)

**Social Media**—<https://www.facebook.com/DurhamAgriculturalCommission>