

# Bee Campus USA - Blue Ridge Community College

Report on 2023

## Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

*Please describe pollinator habitat creation or enhancement projects in your community in 2023, and whether your committee hosted them or not.*

We continue to turn our campus orchard into a permaculture garden that does not require mowing or pesticide usage of any kind. We are also continuing to add in other supportive species that are good for humans and other animals. We recently rehabbed a meadow area near the campus greenhouse that had become overgrown and dominated by wild brambles. We are reinstalling mixed grasses, forbes, and flowering species along with a few native woody shrubs. The beds surrounding the campus greenhouse also continue to be something that we are building back up after a construction event. Our campus vegetable beds are also slow being converted to a more sustainable growing space by using more cover crops and mulches that do not require tilling and fertilizing.

*How many habitat projects did you help to create or enhance in 2023?*

2

*How many people (staff, volunteers, students, partners, etc.) helped with those projects?*

20

*How many projects benefit monarchs, milkweed, or nectar plantings?*

4

*How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?*

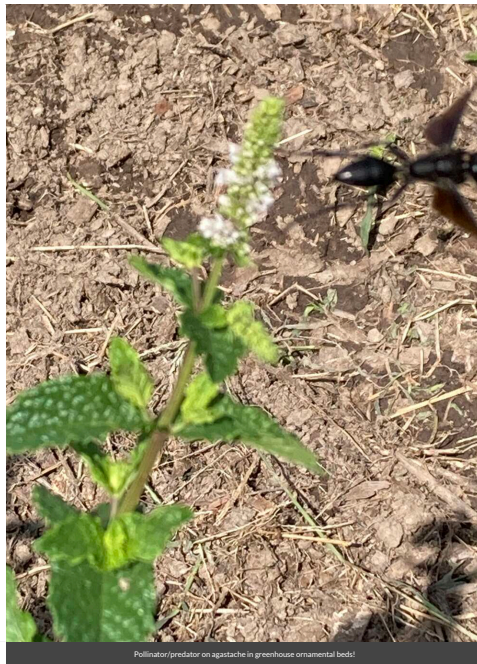
300

*Please check all that describe the habitats your affiliate helped to create or enhance last year with pollinator benefit in mind.*

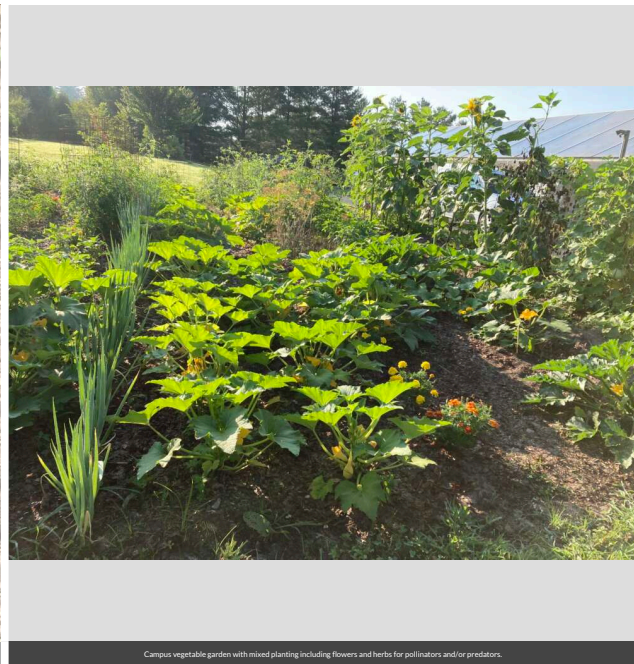
- Flower garden
- Vegetable garden
- Orchard
- Meadow



Plants sprouting in new meadow habitat.



Pollinator/predator on agastache in greenhouse ornamental beds!



Campus vegetable garden with mixed planting including flowers and herbs for pollinators and/or predators.

## Education & Outreach

*Please describe pollinator conservation events or outreach activities in your community in 2023, indicating whether your committee hosted them or not.*

**Our committee jointly hosted a viewing of the documentary, Native Seeds: Supplying Restoration. We held a pollinator garden maintenance day for general campus personnel that wished to learn more. A native plant class was also taught with a focus on dependent relationships with other parts of the ecosystem.**

*How many pollinator-related events or outreach activities did you host or help with in 2023 (in total)?*

3

*How many people attended those events (in total)?*

30

*Number of permanent interpretive/educational/Bee Campus USA signs installed to date?*

5



Native seeds to be propagated in the campus greenhouse for pollinator beds both on campus as well as throughout the city.

Native Seed documentary screening at campus library.

## Curriculum, Continuing Education, & Service Learning

*Please describe the curriculum your campus engaged in 2023, indicating whether it was part of a for-credit course or continuing education.*

**We offer a variety of for-credit classes via the horticulture department that discuss integrated pest management and why it is important for both humans and other animals. Our continuing education classes are mostly focused on native plant identification and how to utilize those in a home/managed landscape.**

*How many of your for-credit courses included pollinator-related information in 2023?*

10

*How many students attended those for-credit courses?*

80

How many of your continuing education courses included pollinator-related information in 2023?

1

How many participants attended those courses?

15

How many service-learning projects did your campus host and/or support to enhance pollinator habitat on- and off- campus?

1

How many students participated in service-learning projects in 2023 to enhance pollinator habitat on or off-campus?

10

Please describe the service-learning projects your students were engaged in 2023, indicating which, if any, were associated with a course.

We have been rehabilitating the orchard, vegetable gardens, meadow and ornamental beds on campus. All four of these projects are associated with curriculum courses.



Students discussing pest management practices with local professionals that have experience in the field.



Students potting up perennials for use in campus gardens as well as for departmental plant sale.

## Policies & Practices

Please describe actions taken to make pest management more pollinator-friendly.

We are continuing to add in predator habitat that will bring in natural predators to offer pest control in both the orchard and vegetable beds as well as in the ornamental beds.

*In your city or campus, are any policy initiatives underway to further protect pollinators, people or waterways from pesticides?*

We are currently working with the city to add in more flowering plants and pollinator habitat. The city has provided our horticulture department with seeds that we are starting in our greenhouse. We will then be returning 3/4 of those seedlings to the city to plant in various locations around the city and the other 1/4 will be for our use on campus.

*Did your committee participate in any continuing education on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management planning?*

Members attended the Green & Growing Conference in Greensboro, NC as well as the Davidson Horticultural Symposium in Davidson, NC.

*Please check actions you have taken to make pest management practices more pollinator-friendly.*

- Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan
- Only use pesticides as a last resort within the IPM plan
- Avoided use of pesticides in public sites containing designated pollinator habitat or other sensitive features (except when targeted use is deemed the best option for invasive or noxious weed, insect or disease management)
- Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use

*Any lessons learned you would like to share?*

Collaboration can be challenging but beneficial!

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Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [BRCC-Integrated-Pest-Management-Plan\\_a.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://ncwildflower.org/recommended-native-species/>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: [Native-Plant-Nurseries-in-North-Carolina\\_a.pdf](#)

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