

Bee Campus USA - Virginia Tech

Report on 2024



Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Please describe pollinator habitat creation or enhancement projects in your community in 2024, and whether your committee hosted them or not.

The Virginia Tech Bee Campus standing committee has improved the quantity and quality of pollinator habitat on campus and in the surrounding areas. 1. Visitors Center Pollinator Habitat Creation – Converted an area in front of the Visitors Center which historically had multiple annuals planted throughout the year with a perennial garden to support pollinators 2. Roundabout Garden Maintenance Day – Hosted a volunteer day to weed, mulch, and enhance the two roundabout pollinator gardens

How many habitat projects did you help to create or enhance in 2024?

3

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

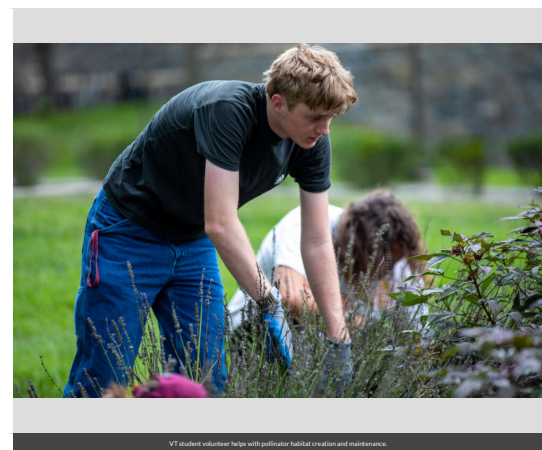
40

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

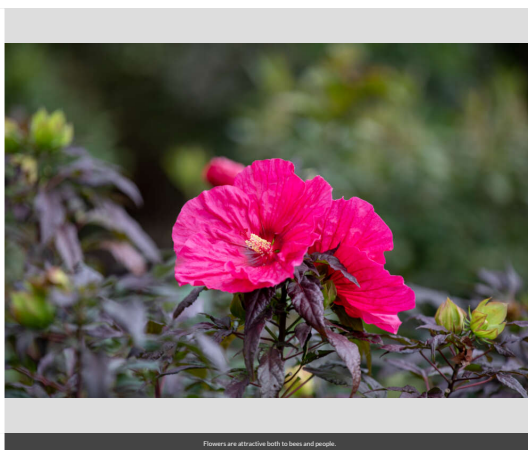
4141

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

- Flower garden
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Other



VT student volunteer helps with pollinator habitat creation and maintenance.



Flowers are attractive both to bees and people.



Volunteers help create pollinator habitat at the Visitors Center as part of VT Bee Day.

Education & Outreach

Please describe pollinator conservation events or outreach activities in your community in 2024, indicating whether your committee hosted them or not.

The Virginia Tech Bee Campus standing committee has hosted various events across campus and our community. These events include educational walk-and-talks through campus gardens, planting and expansion of pollinator habitats, volunteer days to weed and mulch existing pollinator habitats, and invasive species removal efforts. Virginia Tech dedicates one day each Earth Week as VT Bee Day to recognize and celebrate pollinators' importance. 1. Pollinator Garden Tour Spring 2024 – Took students in the Honors Service Learning course (UH 3204) on a walking tour of campus pollinator gardens 2. Pollinator Garden Tour Fall 2024 – Took students in the Honors Service Learning course (UH 3204) on a walking tour of campus pollinator gardens 3. Pollinator Garden Tour Spring 2025 – Took students in the Honors Service Learning course (UH 3204) on a walking tour of campus pollinator gardens 4. Presentation to the CASE Committee – Bee Campus USA committee members presented to university governance at the Climate Action, Sustainability, and Energy committee on Bee Campus efforts

How many pollinator-related events or outreach activities did you host or help with in 2024 (in total)?

6

How many people attended those events (in total)?

135

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

3



Curriculum, Continuing Education, & Service Learning

Please describe the curriculum your campus engaged in 2024, indicating whether it was part of a for-credit course or continuing education.

ALS 3404 – Ecological Agriculture Spring 2024: Not offered Fall 2024: 18 AT 0174 – Fundamentals of Turfgrass Management Spring 2024: Not offered Fall 2024: 15 AT 0424 – Nutrient Management Planning Spring 2024: Not offered Fall 2024: 11 AT 0514 – Cont. Agricultural Issues Spring 2024: 37 Fall 2024: Not offered BIOL 3014 – Insect Biology Spring 2024: Not offered Fall 2024: 46 ENT 2004 – Insects and Human Society Spring 2024: 120 Fall 2024: 46 ENT 2254 – Bees and Beekeeping Spring 2024: 51 Fall 2024: Not offered ENT 2264 – Bees and Beekeeping Laboratory Spring 2024: 31 Fall 2024: Not offered ENT 2804 – Bees: Biology, Diversity, and Sustainability Spring 2024: Not offered Fall 2024: 25 ENT 4254 – Insect Pest Management Spring 2024: 41 Fall 2024: Not offered ENT 4264 – Pesticide Usage Spring 2024: 19 Fall 2024: 21 ENT 6354 – Insect Behavior and Ecology Spring 2024: 10 Fall 2024: Not offered

How many of your for-credit courses included pollinator-related information in 2024?

12

How many students attended those for-credit courses?

491

How many of your continuing education courses included pollinator-related information in 2024?

1

How many participants attended those continuing education courses?

20

Please describe the service-learning projects your students were engaged in 2024, indicating which, if any, were associated with a

course.

Service-Learning We involve students in every process of creating and expanding pollinator habitat on campus. We seek input for design, we look to them to identify funding sources and locations, and we rely on them to help get these habitats planted. At every event we host, we include an educational component on the importance of pollinators, native plants, and Virginia Tech's role as a Bee Campus. How many service-learning projects did your campus host and/or support to enhance pollinator habitat on and off-campus? Visitors Center Pollinator Habitat Creation – Converted an area in front of the Visitors Center which historically had multiple annuals planted throughout the year with a perennial garden to support pollinators Roundabout Garden Maintenance Day – Hosted a volunteer day to weed, mulch, and enhance the two roundabout pollinator gardens

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

2

How many students participated in service-learning projects in 2024 to enhance pollinator habitat on or off-campus?

40



Volunteers help create pollinator habitat at the Visitors Center as part of VT Bee Day

Policies & Practices

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

IPM: Virginia Tech's crop and farm lands cover approximately 1,800 acres all of which are maintained in accordance with a four-tiered Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan as follows: Action Thresholds: Each of our crops (corn, alfalfa, barley, grass hay, pasture) is grown over numerous fields through the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

farm system. Each field is treated separately in the IPM plan, so we never treat an entire crop as one unit when making applications – it's one field at a time. One of our managers is regularly scouting fields to determine what, if any, course of action is required. We make applications only if the manager thinks crop losses will outweigh application expenses. Monitor and Identify Pests: Managers regularly monitor crop needs, identifying pests and pest damage, and we take actions only when they're warranted, not as standard practice. Prevention: Our goal is to utilize Best Management Practices which necessarily maintain pest damage prevention practices. Control: Our goal is to use the lowest pesticide rates possible to control pests; we also use concentrated pesticides and purchase in bulk containers to reduce plastic container waste.

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

Recommended Native Plant List: The Virginia Tech Design and Construction Standards provide guidelines for campus landscaping efforts and includes the following resources: Approved woody and herbaceous plant list: https://www.facilities.vt.edu/content/dam/facilities_vt_edu/design-and-construction-standards/appendices/app-i1-approved-woody-and-herbaceous-plant-list.pdf Virginia Tech core campus approved tree list: https://www.facilities.vt.edu/content/dam/facilities_vt_edu/design-and-construction-standards/appendices/app-i2-core-campus-approved-tree-list.pdf Recommended Native Plant Supplier List: The Virginia Tech Bee Campus Committee works with Crow's Nest Greenhouse in Blacksburg, Virginia to source plants for its pollinator habitats. Learn more: <https://www.vt.edu/sustainability/engagement/bee-campus-usa.html>

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

NA

Any lessons learned you would like to share?

Figure out who are the key players to bring to the table, and invite those folks to participate.

Committee Photo

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://www.facilities.vt.edu/sustainability/sustainability-programs/BeeCampusUSA.html>
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<https://www.instagram.com/beecampusvt>

<https://www.facebook.com/BeeGroupatVT/?ref=bookmarks>