

Why Get Involved?



OperationPollinator
Multifunctional Landscapes



Why are pollinators important?

Pollinating insects are a vital part of the natural ecosystem. They are responsible for the successful pollination of a wide range of plants that provide essential food sources for birds and animals, as well as the pollination of many fruit, vegetable, and oilseed food crops.



Bumblebees play a crucial role as one of nature's pollinators. Helping bumblebee populations and other pollinating insects helps to demonstrate how agriculture can be managed in harmony with the environment and to provide valuable wildlife habitats.

Helping biodiversity flourish

Focused on creating natural habitats for bees and other pollinating insects, Operation Pollinator offers a practical and meaningful way to increase and improve biodiversity on the farm.

The program provides participants the opportunity to re-focus lower-productivity lands toward the establishment of habitat for bees and other pollinating insects.

Implementing Operation Pollinator on farms also helps improve our understanding of how land management models focused on the creation of pollinator-friendly habitats can impact biodiversity and soil health.

What is Operation Pollinator?

Operation Pollinator is an international biodiversity program from Syngenta, designed to enhance the number of pollinating insects on farms and in out-of-play areas on golf courses.

Farms provide great potential to create essential habitat and food sources for a range of native bees and pollinating insects. Independent research trials have shown creation of even small areas of dedicated habitat can significantly increase the numbers of pollinating insects.

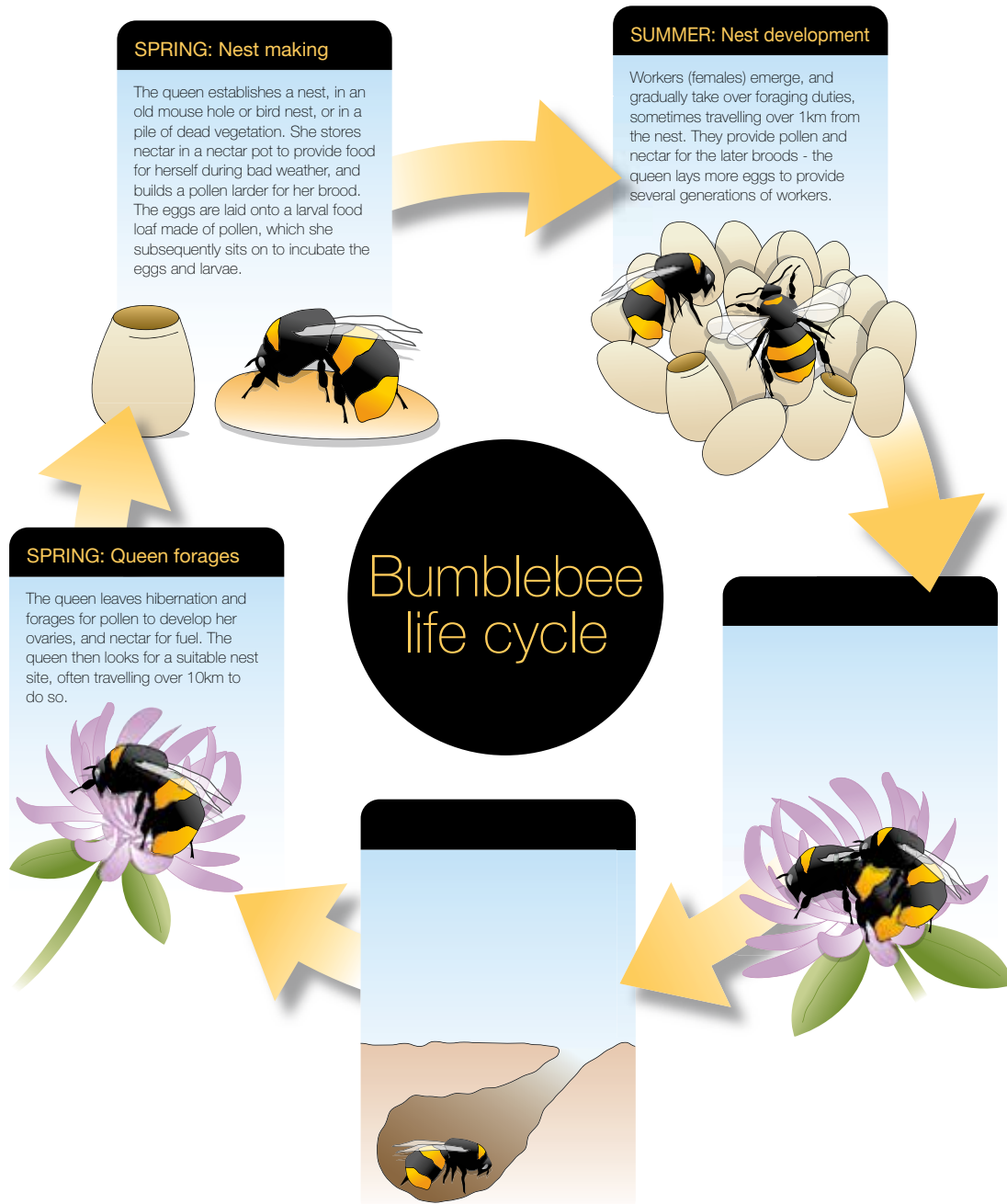
The program provides the knowledge and expertise to achieve the successful management of pollen and nectar habitats, alongside conventional management of productive farm land. Management practices developed to deliver pollen- and nectar-rich habitat for bumblebees, and other insect pollinators, are also beneficial for other flora and fauna on farms.





The Operation Pollinator seed mix provides a succession of flowering plants to deliver a continuous source of pollen and nectar for pollinators.

Farmers enrolled in the program will get a provision of clean, high-quality commercial seed, free of noxious weed species to establish an Operation Pollinator habitat.



How to select an Operation Pollinator site on the farm

Areas on the farm identified as potential Operation Pollinator habitat include:

- Lower-productivity lands (not too saline or sensitive to drought)
- Areas adjacent to hedgerows and other ecologically sensitive areas (e.g.s. ponds, drainage ditches, other riparian areas)
- Sites with decent drainage, adequate soil fertility, and suitable sun exposure
- Cut-outs such as corners of fields



Operation Pollinator seed mix

One of the major benefits of the Operation Pollinator mix is the provision of high-quality nutrition, including the protein-dense pollen of legumes which can aid in the development of bee larvae.

In addition to being diverse and nutritious for pollinators, the mix delivers agronomic benefits. The legumes provide their own nitrogen by fixing it from the air while also providing some to their non-nitrogen-fixing neighbours. The mix also provides food to micro-organisms that improve soil health. Many of these plants are used as cover crops and as green manure crops, protecting the land from soil erosion, and adding organic matter to the soil. All of the plants (except timothy) are known to bloom for lengthy periods, and the perennials will continue to bloom throughout the season with good management practices.

Establishing perennial pollinator plantings may also help other beneficial insects, supporting greater biodiversity, and potentially enhancing natural pest control.