



State of Wisconsin
2025 - 2026 LEGISLATURE

LRB-3177/1

MCP:skw

2025 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 61

May 30, 2025 - Introduced by Senators PFAFF, HABUSH SINYKIN, CARPENTER, DRAKE, HESSELBEIN, LARSON, RATCLIFF, ROYS, SMITH, SPREITZER, WALL, WANGGAARD and WIRCH, cosponsored by Representatives SNODGRASS, BEHNKE, DESANTO, DOYLE, FITZGERALD, JOERS, JOHNSON, MADISON, MAYADEV, MOORE OMOKUNDE, PALMERI, RIVERA-WAGNER, ROE, SINICKI, STUBBS, SUBECK, TENORIO, VINING, ANDRACA, UDELL and J. JACOBSON. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** designating June 2025 as Pollinator Awareness Month in Wisconsin.

2 Whereas, bees, butterflies, and other pollinator species have a critically
3 important role in agriculture in the United States and help to produce a healthy
4 and affordable food supply and sustain ecosystem health; and

5 Whereas, pollinators are responsible for the reproduction of 90 percent of the
6 world's wild plant species by providing them with a healthy habitat rich in a variety
7 of native plants that are free or nearly free of pesticides; and

8 Whereas, thanks to the more than 400 species of native pollinators in
9 Wisconsin, along with honeybees, we have very diverse dietary choices rich in
10 fruits, nuts, and vegetables; and

11 Whereas, pollinators help to produce an estimated one out of every three bites
12 of food consumed in the United States and help reproduce at least 80 percent of
13 flowering plants; and

14 Whereas, commodities produced in partnership with animal pollinators

1 generate \$6.5 million in annual production, with domestic honeybees alone
2 pollinating an estimated \$14.6 billion worth of crops in the United States each year
3 produced on more than two million acres; and

4 Whereas, there are approximately 20,000 bee species in the world, 3,600 in the
5 United States, and 400 in Wisconsin; and

6 Whereas, in Wisconsin, pollinator-dependent crops are harvested on over
7 100,800 acres, with apple, cranberry, cherry, green bean, and pickling cucumber
8 crops accounting for over \$230 million in annual production; and

9 Whereas, bees and other pollinators have experienced population declines due
10 to a combination of habitat loss, use of pesticides, and the spread of pests and
11 diseases; and

12 Whereas, residents of Wisconsin have the opportunity to support bees and
13 other pollinators on both public and private land; and

14 Whereas, the State of Wisconsin seeks to ensure a healthy environment and
15 create policies that sustain our environment; and

16 Whereas, supporting native honeybees and other pollinators promotes
17 environmental awareness, sustainability, and increased interactions among
18 community stewards such as commercial and backyard beekeepers, farmers,
19 children, educators, Master Gardeners, plant nurseries, municipalities,
20 neighborhoods, and garden clubs and suppliers; and

21 Whereas, the ideal pollinator-friendly habitat provides diverse and abundant
22 nectar and pollen from plants blooming in succession throughout the growing
23 season; provides undisturbed spaces such as leaf and brush piles, un-mowed fields

1 or field margins, and fallen trees and other dead wood for nesting and
2 overwintering for wild pollinators; provides water for drinking, nest-building,
3 cooling, diluting stored honey, and butterfly puddling; is pesticide-free or has
4 pesticide use carried out with the least ill effects possible on pollinators; is
5 comprised of mostly, if not all, native species of annual and perennial flowering
6 plants, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees in landscapes because many wild
7 pollinators prefer or depend on the native plants with which they coadapted;
8 includes, where possible, designated pollinator zones in public spaces with signage
9 to educate the public and build awareness; and provides for safe and humane
10 removal of honeybees when required; and

11 Whereas, No Mow May, a municipal effort encouraging homeowners to reduce
12 their mowing intensity to provide forage for native pollinators, began in Appleton in
13 2020 and has expanded throughout Fox Cities municipalities to include the
14 communities of Appleton, Fox Crossing, Oshkosh, De Pere, Fort Atkinson, and
15 Hortonville; and

16 Whereas, a peer-reviewed scientific study of the effects of No Mow May and
17 the community-wide delay in early May lawn care, specifically mowing early growth
18 flowering plants, revealed that these efforts precipitated a five-fold increase in bee
19 species prevalence and a three-fold increase in bee species diversity; and

20 Whereas, possible declines in the health and population of pollinators pose
21 what could be a significant threat to global food webs, the integrity of biodiversity,
22 and human health; and

23 Whereas, it is in the strong economic interest of agricultural producers and

1 consumers in Wisconsin to help ensure a healthy and sustainable pollinator
2 population; now, therefore, be it

3 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the Wisconsin
4 Legislature designates June 2025 as Pollinator Awareness Month in Wisconsin.

5 (END)