



2023

THE ALMOND CONFERENCE
Connecting the Dots

GROWERS // HANDLERS // CUSTOMERS // CONSUMERS

**Pollinators: Update on Endangered Species
Protection and Grower Opportunities**

Moderator: Josette Lewis (ABC)

Speakers: Aubrey Bettencourt (Almond Alliance), Laurie Davies Adams (Pollinator Partnership)



A close-up photograph of almond blossoms in bloom. The flowers are white with pinkish-red centers and numerous stamens. A semi-transparent circular area on the left side of the image contains the text. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

**Pollinators: Endangered
Species & Grower
Opportunities**

Adding pollinator habitat in & around orchards holds value

•Value to the grower

- Honey bees healthier from orchards with cover crops
- Beekeepers favor orchards with supplementary forage
- Agronomic value from cover crops and likely from hedgerows

•Value to almond processors

- Buyer preferences or differentiation in the market
- Financial incentives back to the grower in several cases

•Growers responding to that value

- 166,00 acres of almonds are Bee Friendly Farming certified
- 3X increase in pollinator cover crops (e.g. Seeds for Bees) in 3 years
- Additional grower incentives now available for pollinator habitat

2 Endangered species listings pending

- California: 4 native bumble bees
- Federal: monarch butterfly

Implications if listed

- Illegal to accidentally harm listed pollinators
- Reputation management concern for almonds
- Impacts on pesticide registrations

What almond industry is doing

- Leveraging ag & conservation coalition
- **Demonstrate agriculture part of solution**



Background

- 2018 Xerces Society, Defenders of Wildlife, and Center for Food Safety Native Bumble Bee Petition
 - September 2022 CA Supreme Court Listing
 - January 2023 Comment Period Closed
 - [Almond Alliance Comment Letter](#)
- CADFW 2023 Listing of Native Bumble Bee Species
- USFW 2024 Proposed Listing of the Western Monarch

ESA & CESA

- ESA
 - Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAA)
 - Candidate Conservation Agreements (CCA)
 - Safe Harbor Agreement (SHA)
 - 4d Rule
- CESA
 - [Voluntary Local Program \(VLP\)](#)

EPA

- [FIFRA ESA Workplan Update](#)
- Herbicide/ Pesticide Strategies

Monarch Conservation Plan

Example Timeline for Development or Conservation Plan or Agreement



Plan Development

Development of a Conservation Plan or Agreement commences which includes coordination between Service and potential Applications to negotiate plan details



Plan Finalized and Available for Public Participation

Final Plan is circulated for public review and comment



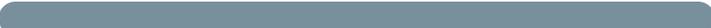
Permit Implementation

Service makes determination and, if approved, applicants are able to enroll in the Plan.



Candidate Species

Service reviews species status to make initial listing determination



Publication of Draft Rule

Service publishes draft rule which kicks off 1-year timeline to finalize listing decision



Publication of Final Rule

Service publishes final listing rule



Almond Board of California

Now is the TIME for Almonds and Pollinators to Partner!

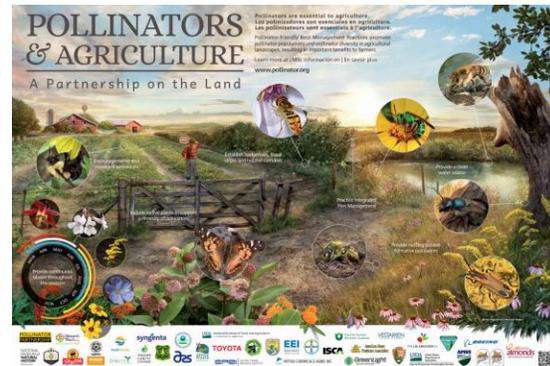
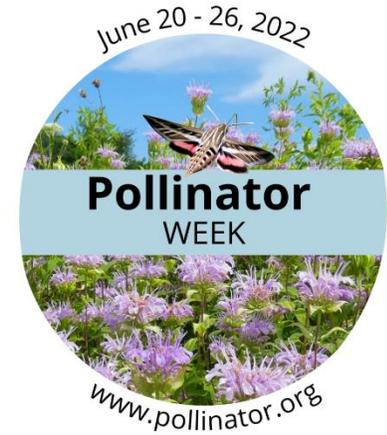
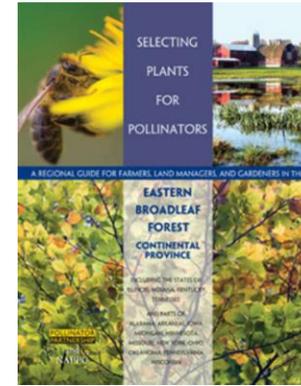
Laurie Davies Adams

**POLLINATOR
PARTNERSHIP**



Photo by Billy Synk. Pollinator Partnership

POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP



TheBeeMD

1. There is a lot of benefit for agriculture from pollinator habitat.



Photo by Rory Crowley



- Groundwater recharge
- Increased pollination efficacy
- Beneficial insects and bio-controls
- Water retention
- Soil health

Photo by Billy Synk, Pollinator Partnership

2. There is a lot of money available RIGHT NOW for:



- Hedgerows
- Conservation Cover
- Cover Crop
- Field borders
- Tree and shrub establishment
- Wildlife habitat planting
- Integrated Pest Management

Photo by Billy Synk, Pollinator Partnership

3. First step is to ask for information and then decide.



agriculture@pollinator.org

4. Partners for the NRCS RCPP Program:



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Over \$1,000,000 for growers
agriculture@pollinator.org

5. Partners for the CDFA Pollinator Habitat Program:



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5. THEN get all the benefits by certifying



- Over **373,000** acres currently certified
- More than **88,000** acres of pollinator forage and habitat managed

**POLLINATOR
PARTNERSHIP**

Third-party verified Bee Friendly Farming option

Introduced in August of 2023

Already over 30,000
acres certified

ALL IN ALMONDS!





**California Almonds lead the way -
Get involved NOW and reap the benefits
HANDOUTS are in the back of the room**



agriculture@pollinator.org



california
almonds®
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Thank you

