

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation is an international non-profit organization that protects wildlife through the conservation of invertebrates and their habitat.

Our core programs address native pollinators, endangered species, and watershed health.

Based in Portland, Oregon, we have regional staff in six states.

With staff biologists located across the U.S., the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation operates the largest pollinator conservation program in the world. Our work is recognized by organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Union for Conservation of Nature as the global standard for effective, science-based pollinator conservation—and we are increasingly asked to consult with conservation leaders in Europe, India, Africa, and beyond.

For the past five years we have worked through a formal partnership with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to support a team of joint Xerces–NRCS staff biologists located in Oregon, Texas, New Jersey, and North Carolina, who provide pollinator-related technical support to the agency nationwide.

This partnership—and our work outside of NRCS—has produced some of the most significant pollinator-related gains in recent years, including:

- Launch of the largest mass-production effort to grow native milkweed seed for monarch butterfly habitat restoration spanning key butterfly migration corridors from California to Florida. This work—and our direct habitat restoration efforts—has resulted in milkweed being planted on tens of thousands of acres for monarch butterflies. This has been accomplished in collaboration with the native wildflower seed industry.
- The restoration of more than 120,000 acres of native wildflower habitat on working farms through NRCS and FSA conservation programs.
- Native pollinator workshops, USDA staff training sessions, and educational seminars for



farmer that have been attended by more than 26,000 participants nationwide.

- Publication of our best-selling book *Attracting Native Pollinators. Protecting North America's Bees and Butterflies*, which has become the leading public guide on the protection and conservation of wild bees, butterflies, and other pollinators.
- Initiation of the Bumblebee Specialist Group of the IUCN, which includes a network of more than 75 of the world's top bumble bee scientists. This group is currently evaluating the extinction risk of bumble bee species in the U.S. and worldwide.
- As part of our strategy to conserve monarch butterflies in the western U.S., we monitor monarch populations and their habitats, document overwintering and breeding habitat, train volunteers to study monarchs, and provide technical guidance to land managers to restore habitat.

In addition to our government partnerships, we work with a broad coalition of more than forty leading businesses to make pollinator conservation an increasingly mainstream practice. These businesses encompass a diverse set of leaders in multiple industries, including General Mills, Whole Foods Market, Aveda, Ernst Conservation Seeds, and many more.

These achievements, along with research partnerships at Penn State, Rutgers, University of California at Berkeley, Michigan State University, and and other institutions, provide us with an unmatched ability to support White House leadership in addressing the threats facing our pollinators.

Founded in 1971, and named after the now extinct Xerces blue butterfly (*Glaucopsyche xerces*), the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation is the oldest pollinator conservation organization in the United States. We work internationally and maintain U.S. offices in Oregon, California, Texas, Nebraska, Minnesota, North Carolina, and New Jersey. More information about our work can be found at: www.xerces.org.

Photographs: Examples of habitat created on farms to support crop pollination and and beneficial invertebrates for pest control.

[Front.](#) Field-edge habitat strip on a farm in Montana, by Jennifer Hopwood, The Xerces Society.

[Back, top.](#) Demonstration meadow at the NRCS Plant Materials Center in Lockeford, California, by Amy Gomes, NRCS Lockeford PMC.

[Back, bottom.](#) Habitat strip on a blueberry farm in New Hampshire, by Don Keirstead, NH NRCS.

