

NOFA-VT Pollinator Protection Priorities & Advocacy History

NOFA-VT advocates for agricultural practices that rely on natural systems, rather than chemical inputs, to respond to pest and disease pressure.

It is in the interest of everyone: eaters, farmers, farm workers, and ecosystems to reduce or eliminate our dependency on toxic, persistent pesticides and encourage biodiversity and ecosystem health.

As such, we have consistently prioritized pollinator protection in our advocacy work by:

- 🐝 Promoting organic agricultural practices, which rely on natural systems to preserve and improve biodiversity, including pollinator habitat;
- 🐝 Advocating to strengthen restrictions on pesticide use; and
- 🐝 Championing mandatory labeling of GMOs, whose widespread adoption in Vermont has coincided with massive increases in the use of certain pesticides.

Advocacy History

In 2016 and 2017, we closely tracked and provided input to the discussions of Vermont's Pollinator Protection Committee (PCC), advocating for that group to make strong recommendations restricting the use of neonicotinoid pesticides and to promote the protection of both native and managed pollinators. Working with partner organizations, we delivered over 1,000 signatures to the PCC urging strong and specific recommendations to protect pollinators to the legislature.

NOFA-VT is currently a founding partner in the Pesticide Free VT Coalition, whose goal is to advance strong pesticide regulations/restrictions in the interest of pollinator protection and human/ecosystem health.

During the 2019 legislative session, the Pesticide Free VT Coalition successfully advocated for the passage of legislation (H.205) that restricts the use of neonicotinoid pesticides and provides additional resources for pollinator protection and education. As part of this campaign, NOFA-VT engaged our statewide membership, gathering signatures in support of this important legislation.

We are continuing our involvement and leadership in this coalition. Our goals are to:

- 🐝 Educate legislators and the public about the damaging impacts of pesticide use on pollinators and other aspects of thriving, biodiverse ecosystems;
- 🐝 Strengthen/revitalize the policies and regulatory structures previously created to reduce pesticide use in Vermont (including the VT Pesticide Advisory Council); and
- 🐝 Advocate for near-term restrictions on pesticides known to cause harm to pollinator populations, ecosystems, and human health.

Our mission supports organic farming and food as the intersection of social and environmental justice. Pollinator protection is crucial for long term planetary and human thriving.

