

Operation Pollinator: Planting Pollinator Refuges

Operation Pollinator, a Syngenta program focused on research and partnerships to promote the health and well-being of bees and other pollinating insects, is expanding its footprint in Prince Edward Island through a partnership with the PEI Potato Board.

The program's mandate is to support activities that enhance biodiversity, habitat and other practical initiatives that can contribute to healthy pollinator populations. Operation Pollinator offers a practical and meaningful way to increase and improve biodiversity on the farm.

Interested producers agree to convert up to two acres of lower-productivity land to establish a dedicated Operation Pollinator site. They receive a provision of high-quality, pollinator-friendly commercial seed, agronomic advice, and financial assistance to help offset site establishment costs.

"We know that agriculture depends on biodiversity, and the Operation Pollinator program is a key component of our commitment to sustainable agriculture," explains Erin McGregor, stewardship and policy manager with Syngenta Canada. "We are very excited to be partnering with the PEI Potato Board this spring on their delivery of the program."

One out of every three bites of food that we eat is made possible by pollination. That is why programs like Operation Pollinator are so important. Farms provide great potential to create essential habitat and food sources for a range of native bees and pollinating insects.

For more information on the 2021 Operation Pollinator program in PEI or if you are interested in enrolling, please contact Ryan Barrett at the PEI Potato Board office. Seed will be delivered directly to participating growers prior to the planting season. In the summer, a Board staff member will visit farms to validate that the pollinator refuge has been planted and install Operation Pollinator signs. After this validation is complete, the \$200 per acre payment up to a maximum of two acres per grower will be issued.

Flowering Timeline:



Operation



Pollinator

Multifunctional Landscapes

What's in the mix?



Alsike Clover



Birdsfoot Trefoil



Phacelia



Red Clover



Timothy



Sweet Clover

Application Deadline:
March 15th, 2021