Pollinator-friendly Criteria for Growers and Retailers

Name of Organization:

Location:

Website:

Contact Email: Make this contact public? ☐

Contact Name:

Bee Better Manitoba would like to help your customers make pollinator-friendly purchasing decisions when shopping for their home or community gardens. We have compiled what are considered pollinator-friendly criteria. Producing/selling plants that meet these criteria will help the consumer feel confident in their purchase, while also showing that your business is taking steps to support pollinator conservation in your community.

Customers will use the QR code on the stickers provided to arrive on our landing page. There they will find a link to your business that allows them to view this form.

Please select the criteria for the stock that you have indicated as pollinator-friendly. You may also expand upon each selection by providing comments. **Check all that apply.**

Please let us know if it would be helpful to provide multiple forms for particular sections of your business.

1) Suitability of Plants

Plants with these characteristics provide a diverse environment for pollinators and give them the best conditions in which to thrive.

☐ a) **Native Perennial** – This flowering plant is endemic to Manitoba and contains local genetics. It provides the resources that native pollinators require to complete their life cycle and is well-adapted to local growing conditions. It may be a food plant for caterpillars or pollinators with a narrow range of hosts.

☐ b) **Derived from a Prairie Perennial** – This horticultural variety was developed from a species that is found in the Prairie Provinces, but may differ in genetics and physical traits. It may still provide many of the benefits of its native counterpart.

This category includes cultivars of native species. A cultivar is a plant that has been produced from crossing plants of the same species to promote certain human-selected traits. Traits may include bigger blooms, petal shape, or hardiness. The resulting generations of this plant have deviated from the wild type - the plant that you would find in nature.

This category also includes hybrids derived from native species – when two species of closely related native plants have been crossed to produce a plant with desired traits.

Cultivars and hybrids may further be defined as “varieties”. Varieties refer to the traits that are available to the customer to choose from. Different floral colours are commonly used to define varieties.

Example: *Gaillardia aristata* is a blanketflower native to North American prairies. *Gaillardia pulchella* is native to southern North America and Mexico. The two species were crossed to produce a hybrid called Gaillardia x grandiflora that is available in several colour varieties. A strongly yellow variety is known as Gaillardia x grandiflora “oranges and lemons”. The X indicates a hybrid, and “” refers to the variety.

☐ c) **Pollinator-Friendly Non-native Annual** – These plants are not endemic to Manitoba, but may provide some resources to pollinators. Non-native annuals must have accessible pollen and nectar (no pollenless varieties). They must not be included on the Declaration of Noxious Weeds in Manitoba.

Comments:

2) Exposure to Pesticides

The most pollinator-friendly flowers are produced without the use of pesticides, particularly those designed to kill insects by persisting in or on plant tissues (including pollen and nectar). These types of pesticides, which are considered systemic or residual contact insectices, are often conventional practice. Unfortunately, the plants produced when using these chemicals are not safe for pollinators.

Some pesticides have greater impacts on pollinators than others, so we encourage growers and retailers to be transparent about pesticide treatments when selling their stock. It can be difficult to clearly define the different uses of pesticides for consumers, so we have created a list of three acceptable applications for plants that can be considered pollinator-friendly.

Please see Offering Bee-Safe Plants: A Guide for Nurseries for a list of pesticides to avoid.

Stickers may only be used on plants treated in the following categories:

☐ a) Certified Organic: No pesticides were used, or the pesticides were designated as organic. Note that to use this designation, the product must be officially certified as indicated in Manitoba's Organic Agricultural Products Act.

☐ b) Pesticide-Free Production: No pesticides are used from seed to sale. However, growers have the option of applying a non-residual pesticide if a pest outbreak occurs while maintaining the pesticide-free designation. This category was defined by the University of Manitoba Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences. Learn more here.

☐ c) Minimal Pesticide: Non-residual pesticides were applied only when needed to prevent economic damage. This may include *Integrated Pest Management* - pesticides and natural controls used in combination to minimize financial loss and health risks. This category was defined by Bee Better Manitoba.

Comments:

When completed, please submit this form to: admin@beebettermb.ca