

The Pollinator Project of ROTARY Cyprus (*Climate Change and Biodiversity in Cyprus*) has been initialized by the Rotary Club Nicosia Aspelia in close cooperation with the ROTARACT Clubs Nicosia Aspelia and University of Nicosia.

The project is run by an **Environmental Task Force**, with members from 11 ROTARY Clubs and 4 ROTARACT Clubs in Cyprus and others.

„Insect hotels“ are a valuable asset to provide safe shelter to useful insects



The project has been entered as a **Rotary Showcase Project** at Rotary International (<https://map.rotary.org/en/project/Pages/>).

For more information, please visit the **project website**: <http://rotary-cyprus.org/projects/the-pollinator-project/>

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Rotary Club Of Nicosia
Aspelia



How to get involved?

As an **individual**:
start your own pollinator garden plot



Pollinator plots can be realized at small scales: © Orange County Invasives Partnership, <https://sciorxiv.org/index.php/how-to-plant-a-pollinator-garden/>

As a **ROTARY club**:
support the creation and maintenance of municipal or school pollinator plots

As a **school**:
make pollinator gardens part of your biology curriculum



Source: <https://www.reviewjournal.com/homes/advertising-features/summerlin-supports-school-pollinator-gardens-1979809/>

As a **municipality**:
initiate, set up and sustain community pollinator gardens or pollinator parks

The Pollinator Project of ROTARY Cyprus



How to safeguard pollinators to enhance the diversity of biological species and maintain the production of fruits and vegetables in Cyprus under climate change.

Photo: M. Lange

Get involved and take action!

Cyprus
Rotary
District 2452



What is pollination and why is it important?

Pollination is an essential part of plant reproduction and is required for the continuation of a species.

Some plants are able to pollinate themselves.

Large majority of plants (85%) require pollination by an animal.

Pollinators provide pollination services to over 180 000 different plant species and more than 1 200 crops.

One out of every three bites of food you eat is there because of pollinators.

Pollinators support healthy ecosystems.

Pollinators are threatened by climate change and pollution.

What are the main pollinator species?

Pollinator animal species include (main species in **bold**):

- ◆ Ants
- ◆ **Bats**
- ◆ **Bees**
- ◆ **Beetles**
- ◆ Birds
- ◆ **Butterflies**
- ◆ **Flies**



Photo by J. Hoffman;
National Wildlife Photo
Contest; <http://www.ucanr.org/blogs/biogore/>



A wild bee feeds on a
flower; © Facundo
Arrizabalaga / European
Pressphoto Agency

In Cyprus, a number of wild bee species are particularly important for the pollination. Some **21** species are only found on the island.



One of the Cypriot species
(*Megachile Cypricola*),
Photo by A. Varnava;
Varnava et al., 2020

What are the threats to pollinators and how can we protect them?

Cyprus, similar to other parts of the Mediterranean is undergoing rapid and intense changes in climate.

Rising temperatures and decreasing rainfall adds to the desertification of the island.



Photo: M. Lange

One of the consequences of desertification is a steady decline in the diversity of plant and animal species, including pollinators.

In addition, the extensive use of agrochemicals and pollution from various sources reduce the habitats of pollinator species.

What to do?

Raise awareness on the value of pollinator species.

Protect and maintain pollinator habitats.

Create pollinator gardens and parks.



Photo by Dr. Bill May;
US Forest Service;
<https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/animals/>