



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

FLORIDA POLLINATOR WEEK

WHEREAS, pollinator species such as birds and insects, including nature's most efficient pollinator – the honey bee – are essential partners of Florida agriculture that allow fruits, vegetables, berries, nuts and other similar foods to form; and

WHEREAS, without pollination, the food we eat could decrease by one third – there would be virtually no watermelons, cucumbers or squash, and citrus and blueberry production would decrease dramatically; and

WHEREAS, Florida's beekeeping industry is consistently ranked among the nation's leaders in honey production, producing some of the world's most sought after honey varieties including orange, tupelo, gallberry and palmetto; and

WHEREAS, for every dollar of honey produced in Florida, approximately \$150 is generated in honey bee pollination services – an estimated \$20 million in increased production numbers created by managed pollination services; and

WHEREAS, pollinator species provide significant environmental benefits that are necessary for maintaining healthy, biodiverse ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services is responsible for the protection and detection of plant and apiary pests and diseases that threaten the plants and insects that produce the state's pollination species;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing June 21 – 27, 2010 as *Florida Pollinator Week*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capitol, this 2nd day of June, in the year two thousand ten.

Handwritten signature of Charlie Crist in black ink.

Governor