



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, pollinator species such as bees and butterflies are essential partners of farmers in producing much of our food supply; and

WHEREAS, the success of many of New Jersey's most popular and economically important crops such as blueberries, apples, cranberries, cucumbers, squash and pumpkins are dependent upon pollinators; and

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

WHEREAS, pollination plays a vital role in the health of our state and national forests and grasslands, which provide forage, fish and wildlife, timber, water, mineral resource and recreational opportunities, as well as enhanced economic development opportunities for communities; and

WHEREAS, the domesticated honeybee, *Apis mellifera*, is New Jersey's State Insect and a key pollinator in our state; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, the New Jersey Beekeepers Association (NJBA) and Rutgers University have worked cooperatively to increase the number of beekeepers through the Bee-gimmers Beekeeping Course; and

WHEREAS, more than 3,000 new beekeepers have been trained since 2006 and the NJBA's membership has increased to more than 1,200; and

WHEREAS, Rutgers University has an extensive research lab studying the benefits that native pollinator species add to agriculture production and New Jersey as a whole, as well as how land management affects the population of native pollinators; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey strongly supports the cultivation of pollinators to ensure a robust agricultural industry and a sustainable food supply;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRIS CHRISTIE, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

JUNE 15 THROUGH JUNE 21, 2015

**AS
POLLINATOR WEEK**

in New Jersey.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twentieth day of May in the year two thousand fifteen, the two hundred thirty-ninth year of the Independence of the United States.

Chris Christie
Lt. GOVERNOR

Chris Christie
GOVERNOR