Islam and Pollinators - Helping Pollinators Through Faith

Why Should Our Congregation Care about Pollinators?

Pollinators bring us nearly one of every three bites of food we eat and are vital in the procreation of nearly 80 percent of the flowering plants on the planet. Worldwide, roughly 1,000 of the 1,200 plant species grown for food, beverages, fibers, spices, and medicines need to be pollinated by animals. These foods include apples, blueberries, chocolate, coffee, melons, peaches, pumpkins, vanilla, and almonds. In fact, in Canada pollination by honey bees, native bees, and other insects produces $7 billion worth of products annually.

In the Beginning

When Allah laid out his grand design, it was **Made for you the Earth a resting place, and the heaven an edifice for protection, and caused water to pour down from the clouds. Then He brought you forth therewith a great variety of fruit for your sustenance (Al-Baqarah 3:22).**

Along with the bounty of food and medicine that grew from the Earth her created, Allah also bestowed a host of living things to tend the growth and propogation if good plants. In other words, he gave us the gift of specialized species known as pollinators

Pollination happens when pollen is carried to flowers by wind, water, or pollinating animals such as birds, bees, bats, butterflies, moths, and beetles.

POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP CANADA

BEES FOR PEACE

Are pollinators in trouble?

Worldwide there is disturbing evidence that pollinating animals have suffered from disease, parasites, pesticides, loss of habitat, and competition from non-native plant and animal species.

- Canada has a winter loss rate of lost over 39.3 percent over the last decade due to an interacting array of factors including diseases such as the Varroa mite, exposure to pesticides, and lack of forage.

"Eat from the good things We have provided for you."

(Qur'an 2:172)

Ideas for Our Community

Find verses in the Qur'an and authentic Hadith that encourage caring for nature, animals, plants, and Allah's creation.

"It is He who sends down rain from the sky. With it We produce vegetation of every kind, olives, date palms, grapes, and every kind of fruit. Surely in this are signs for people who reflect." (Qur'an 16:10–11)

Give a khutbah or Islamic reminder about caring for Allah's creation.

"It is He who has made you successors (khalifah) upon the earth." (Qur'an 6:165)

Have a celebration.

Break ground on your garden. Talk about healthy gardening practices and the benefits of locally produced foods.

Start a Pollinator Team.

Help cultivate your garden and educate your congregation.

How to Get Involved - Create an Islamic Pollinator Garden!

What is an Islamic Pollination Garden?

An Islamic garden is a collection of plants, trees, flowers, and herbs mentioned in the Qur'an or Hadith. It reminds Muslims to appreciate Allah's creation while providing habitat for pollinators.

The Qur'an and Pollinators

There is an entire chapter of the Qur'an that bears the name of a pollinator—Al-Nahal, the Bee. It contains many verses celebrating Allah's blessings, including the bountiful gardens that sustain and heal us:

And your Lord inspired the bees (saying), 'Make your hives in the hills and in the trees and in the trellises which the people erect (Al-Nahal, 9:68)

And, for the gift of honey that they bestow:

There comes forth from their insides a fine fluid of varying hues which is a cure for the people (Al-Nahal, 9:69)

Honey is a nourishing food and medicine that imparts many healthful benefits. The Prophet himself made not of its worth, saying:

Honey is a remedy for every illness and the Qur'an is a remedy for all illness of the mind, therefore I recommend to you both remedies, the Qur'an and honey (Bukhari)

Native Pollinator Islamic Garden

An Islamic garden reflects the Qur'an's teachings about caring for Allah's creation. By planting native flowers and trees that support pollinators, Muslims fulfill their responsibility as caretakers (khalifah) of the Earth. Native plants provide food and shelter while helping preserve the natural beauty Allah created.

"It is He who has made you successors (khalifah) upon the earth."
(Qur'an 6:165)

Plants Mentioned in the Qur'an and Their Significance:

Olive: Purity, peace, and spiritual guidance.
(Qur'an 24:35)

Fig: A sign of Allah's blessings.
(Qur'an 95:1)

Pomegranate: A reminder of Allah's abundance.
(Qur'an 6:99)

Grapes: A divine blessing and a symbol of Paradise.
(Qur'an 16:11)

Date Palm: A symbol of Allah's mercy and nourishment.
(Qur'an 19:23–26)

To find what plants are native to your area, scan the QR code