



## Meijer Commitment to Pollinator Health

At Meijer, we strive to be a good neighbor, which means serving our communities today and helping to protect our planet for tomorrow. We are committed to integrating environmental sustainability into our daily operations, not only because it makes good business sense, but because it aligns with our values and mission of enriching lives in the communities we serve.

We understand that the health of pollinator animal species, like the honeybee and native bees, is directly linked to the dependability of our food supply. Pollinator health is a matter of food security, and food retailers can play an important role in limiting pollinator health decline as a result of pollinator-toxic pesticides.

On the road to a better future for pollinator health, Meijer will take the following actions within the supply chain:

1. Encourage suppliers of fresh produce, floral, and live plants to prioritize least-toxic approaches to pest management. The most commonly accepted least-toxic approaches for protecting pollinators are integrated pest management (IPM)<sup>1</sup> strategies and regenerative agriculture<sup>2</sup> techniques, which include chemical controls as a last resort, rather than a primary means of pest management. We encourage suppliers to evaluate the use of credible third-party certification programs to validate least-toxic approaches.
2. Implement a method for tracking supplier use of certified and uncertified IPM strategies.
3. Work with academic institutions to develop educational opportunities for suppliers to learn about how to develop and implement IPM strategies and other forms of least-toxic approaches to insecticide use.
4. Encourage suppliers to minimize the use of [pesticides of high concern](#), including nitroguanidine neonicotinoids, and organophosphates. Additionally, it is important that suppliers avoid regrettable substitutions<sup>3</sup> that are equally or more toxic than the chemical they are replacing.
5. Work to expand our current offering of more than 250 USDA Organic fresh produce offerings across the Meijer footprint, which currently represent more than 10% of Meijer produce sales. Meijer aspires to grow USDA Organic sales at twice the rate of non-organic produce and to onboard new organic suppliers.

In addition to working with suppliers to promote pollinator health, Meijer will strive to educate customers through the following actions:

1. Use labeling and in-store signage to help educate customers about pollinator health.
2. Offer pollinator-friendly products to the customer. For example, the Meijer Garden Center offers pollinator-friendly live goods and products to encourage at-home pollinator habitats.

---

<sup>1</sup> IPM is a pest management framework that minimizes pesticide use and risks by relying on inspection and monitoring to detect and correct conditions that could lead to pest problems; implementing biological, cultural and physical strategies to prevent and suppress pest populations; using chemical controls only as a last resort and when economically justified; and assessing pesticide risks and prioritizing the lowest risk options.

<sup>2</sup> Regenerative agriculture uses ecological farming methods to build healthy soil that can sequester carbon and conserve water resources by: minimizing soil disturbance and keeping the soil covered; increasing diversity within the farming system; reducing synthetic inputs; and integrating crop and livestock systems when appropriate.

<sup>3</sup> A list of chemicals with acute contact toxicity to bees can be found in Appendix A of "U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Policy to Mitigate the Acute Risk to Bees from Pesticide Products", January 12, 2017

3. Use Meijer digital assets, such as Meijer.com, to educate customers on pollinator health issues and to explain the full scope of the USDA certified organic label.

While we understand that the most impactful ways we can contribute to pollinator health are within the food and live goods supply chains, Meijer can also take actions to improve pollinator health on our properties. In addition to our more than 250 stores, Meijer also has other properties, such as distribution centers, manufacturing facilities, and offices, and we will explore opportunities to create intentional pollinator habitats.

We look forward to partnering with our valued suppliers to build a better future. The actions outlined in this commitment are a first step towards promoting the health of pollinator species that play such an essential role in food security.