SPRING 2019 BUMBLE BEE SURVEY

Bumble bees are keystone species meaning that their demise would cause a cascade of extinctions resulting in the loss of wildflower species and significantly lowering the yields of plants requiring buzz pollination such as tomatoes, eggplant, blueberries and peppers.

Recent declines in bumblebee numbers are attributed to the introduction of diseases and parasites from commercial bumble bee operations, contact with neonicotinoids and other pesticides, and habitat loss. Climate change may also be a factor. The emergence of bumble bees in the spring is now 3-5 days earlier than the bloom periods of the flowers they rely on for pollen and nectar.

To help us monitor these trends, please complete this questionnaire and either return it via email or leave it in the drop box in the Plant Clinic.

Thank you from the Insect Working Group.

Name_____________________________________________________________
Location/Address ___________________________________________________
Date of first bumble bee sighting_______________________________________
Plants the Bumblebee was feeding on ____________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

(Common early flowering plants include crocus, pansies, witch hazel, willows, Oregon grape, dandelions, alyssum, rosemary, bitter cress, California lilac, Mountain mahogany and red flowering currant.)