

flowering plants, including more than two-thirds of the world's crop species. According to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, Colorado's insect-pollinated crops contribute over \$300 million to the state's economy. Many of these crops depend on native pollinator populations, including squash, pumpkins, and melons, while other crops produce better and higher quality yields when pollinated by native insects.

The critical role of pollinators extends far beyond crop production to the natural habitats within our parks, forests, grasslands, wild lands and greenspaces. A rich diversity of flowering plants depends on diverse species and populations of pollinators. The diversity of wildlife and the