



Costco Wholesale's Policy to Protect Pollinator Health

Costco Wholesale understands that native pollinators and managed honeybee populations are threatened by pests, pathogens, pesticides, and poor nutrition. These pollinators are necessary for pollinating approximately one-third of the food we eat. We currently invest in research projects to improve honey bee health and sustainability.

We are also committed to business practices that support the growth and sustainability of our business as well as the growth and sustainability of bees and other pollinators. We look to our suppliers for guidance in their specific areas of expertise and are mindful of the impact our policies may have on their businesses.

We support the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies and other creative solutions. IPM utilizes non-chemical, mechanical and biological methods of pest control, acts against pests only when necessary and uses least-toxic methods as a last resort. IPM relies on inspection and monitoring to detect and correct conditions that could lead to pest problems. Our support for IPM strategies includes the high tech hot house and greenhouse industries with their primary reliance on the use of IPM.

Our policy:

1. Scope: live goods/plants, fruits and vegetables sold to Costco.
2. Suppliers are encouraged to limit the use of all non-essential chemicals and to utilize eco-friendly methods of pest or disease control when treating plants, fruits and vegetables produced for Costco, including the use of IPM.
3. Application of any chemicals or pesticides is to be done in strict accordance with all applicable local and federal laws, regulations and guidelines in effect at the location of production and intended distribution. It is the supplier's responsibility to remain informed and up to date on all applicable laws and regulations.

4. Suppliers are encouraged to phase-out the use of pesticides that harm pollinators, including Neonicotinoids and Chlorpyrifos. When phasing out these pesticides, suppliers are also encouraged when possible to avoid regrettable substitutions, such as those listed on the EPA website.
5. We seek to partner with suppliers who share our commitment to pollinator health and IPM, and are making reasonable progress to meet our policy in a timely manner.
6. As appropriate, we will update our policy as research and verifiable information warrants.