



Pollinator Health Policy

Revised December 2025

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 and 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 encourage efforts that improve the stability and long-term resilience of crop production through healthier pollinator populations and other beneficial insects.

To this end, we support the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies, regenerative agriculture, 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. Regenerative agriculture uses ecological farming methods to build healthy soil that can benefit pollinators, sequester carbon, and conserve water resources by: minimizing soil disturbance (e.g., by reducing tillage and synthetic inputs), keeping the soil covered, and increasing the diversity of plants and animals within the farming system. Healthier soil and beneficial insect populations (including pollinators) can support healthier crops that are more resilient to extreme weather, less dependent on synthetic inputs, and more resistant to pests and disease. This can offer benefits to our business and supply chains over time.

We seek to partner with suppliers who share our commitment to pollinator health, regenerative agriculture, and IPM, and who are making reasonable progress to meet our policy in a timely manner. To this end, Costco is implementing regular surveys of suppliers to assess implementation of IPM and sustainable agriculture audits/certifications.

As a result, for all live goods / plants, fruits, and vegetables sold to Costco, we encourage suppliers to:

1. Limit the use of all non-essential chemicals and instead utilize lower-impact methods of pest or disease control when treating plants, fruits, and vegetables produced for Costco, including the use of IPM and regenerative agriculture principles where possible.
2. Apply any chemicals or pesticides 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.
3. Phase-out the use of pesticides that harm pollinators, including nitroguanidine neonicotinoids, glyphosate, and organophosphates (e.g. chlorpyrifos, diazinon, malathion, naled, dimethoate). When phasing out these pesticides, suppliers are also encouraged when possible to avoid regrettable substitutions, such as those listed as [level 1 by UCANR](#) (University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources).
4. Comply with any survey requests.

As appropriate, we will update our policy as research and verifiable information warrants.