

UMass Extension Pollinator Survey Summary

December 2021-January 2022

Summary

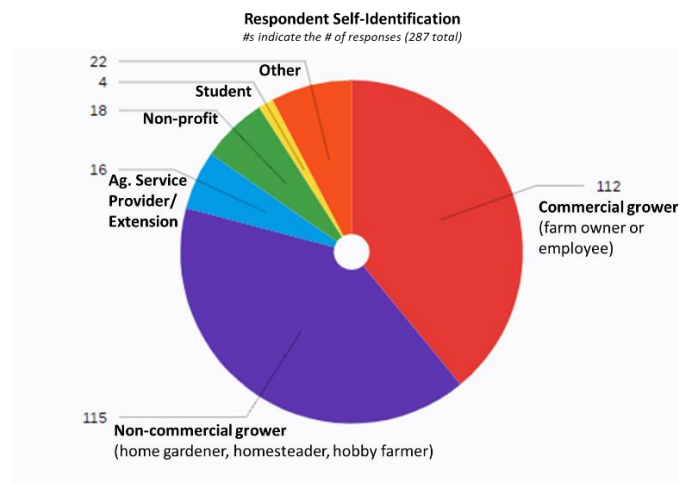
The survey was distributed December 2021-January 2022. It was sent out through veg notes, as well as the other extension teams, MDAR, CISA and SEMAP. The survey is available for viewing [here](#).

Overall, growers are most interested in learning how to establish pollinator habitat and assess bee abundance/diversity on farm. They are also interested in understanding the general status of bees.

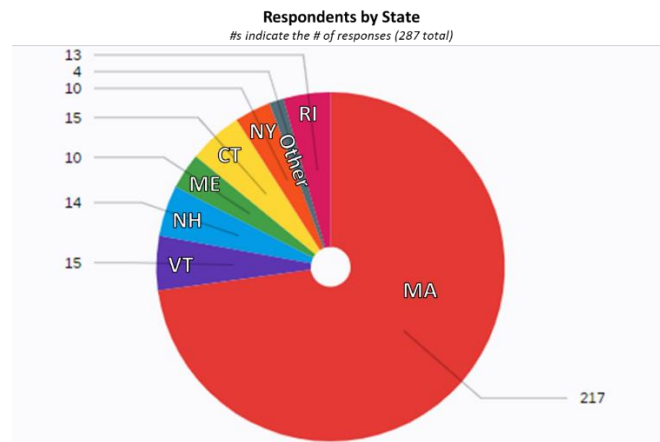
Their preferred extension activities are research, fact sheets/articles, and videos.

About growers

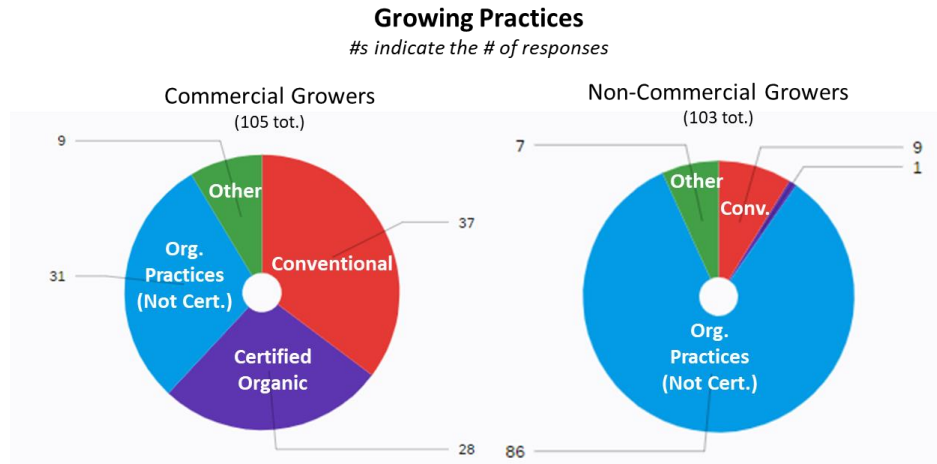
- 314 total responses
- 112 respondents were commercial growers (39%)



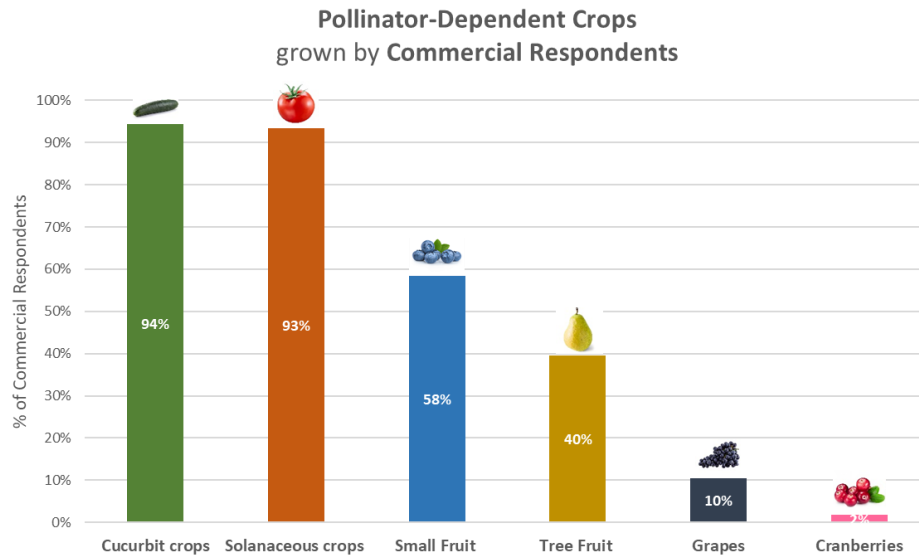
- 73% of respondents were from MA (76% of commercial growers), with an even distribution among counties



- Among commercial respondents, 35.24% were conventional, 26.2% were certified organic, 29.5% were organic but not certified, and 8.5% indicated “other” (incl. IPM, no-till, etc.)
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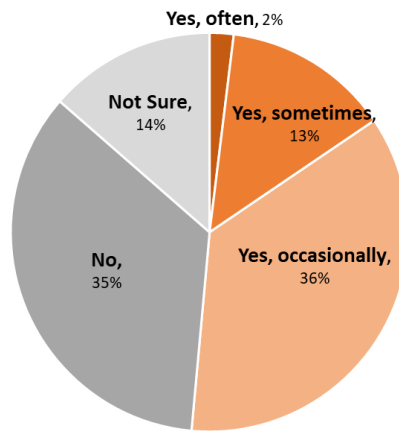
- 4,305 acres managed by commercial respondents (on average, 42 acres per respondent)
 - 2,150 of those acres are pollinator-dependent, averaging 21 acres per respondent
- >90% of commercial respondents grow solanaceous crops or cucurbits. About half grow small fruit or tree fruit, and very few grow cranberries or grapes.



- 35% of commercial respondents keep honey bees (average 11 colonies, range 1-45). Only 14% rent honey bees, and 3% rent bumble bees.
- 51% of commercial respondents occasionally-sometimes have issues with fruit or seed set
 - 2% often, 13.6% sometimes, 36% occasionally, and 35% no. 14% weren't sure.
 - Most common issues are with cucurbits

In the past few years, have you had any issues with **fruit or seed set**, such as stunted or misshapen fruit?

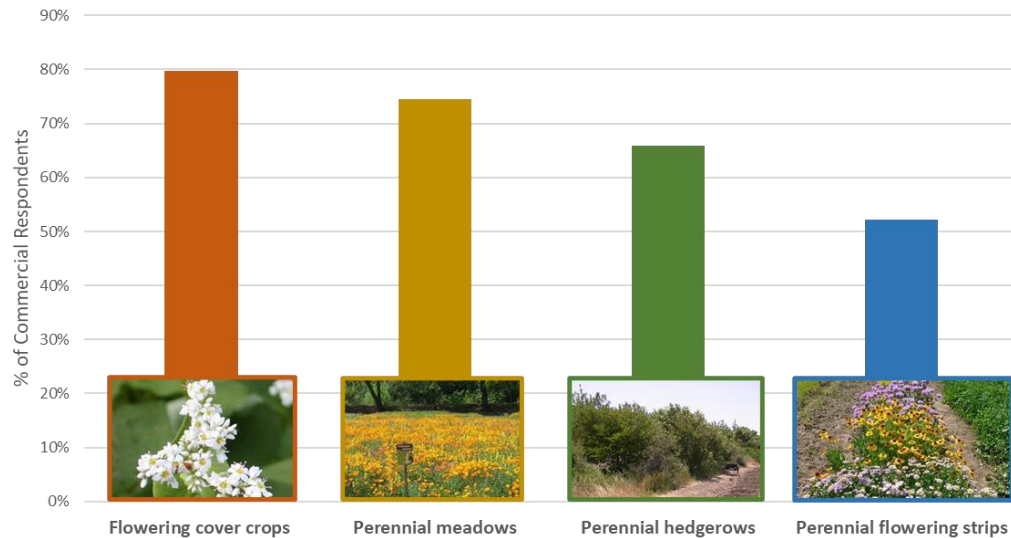
(Commercial grower responses, n = 103)



- Most commercial respondents already maintain some pollinator habitat:
 - 80% have flowering cover crops, 75% have perennial meadows, 66% have hedgerows, 52% have flowering strips

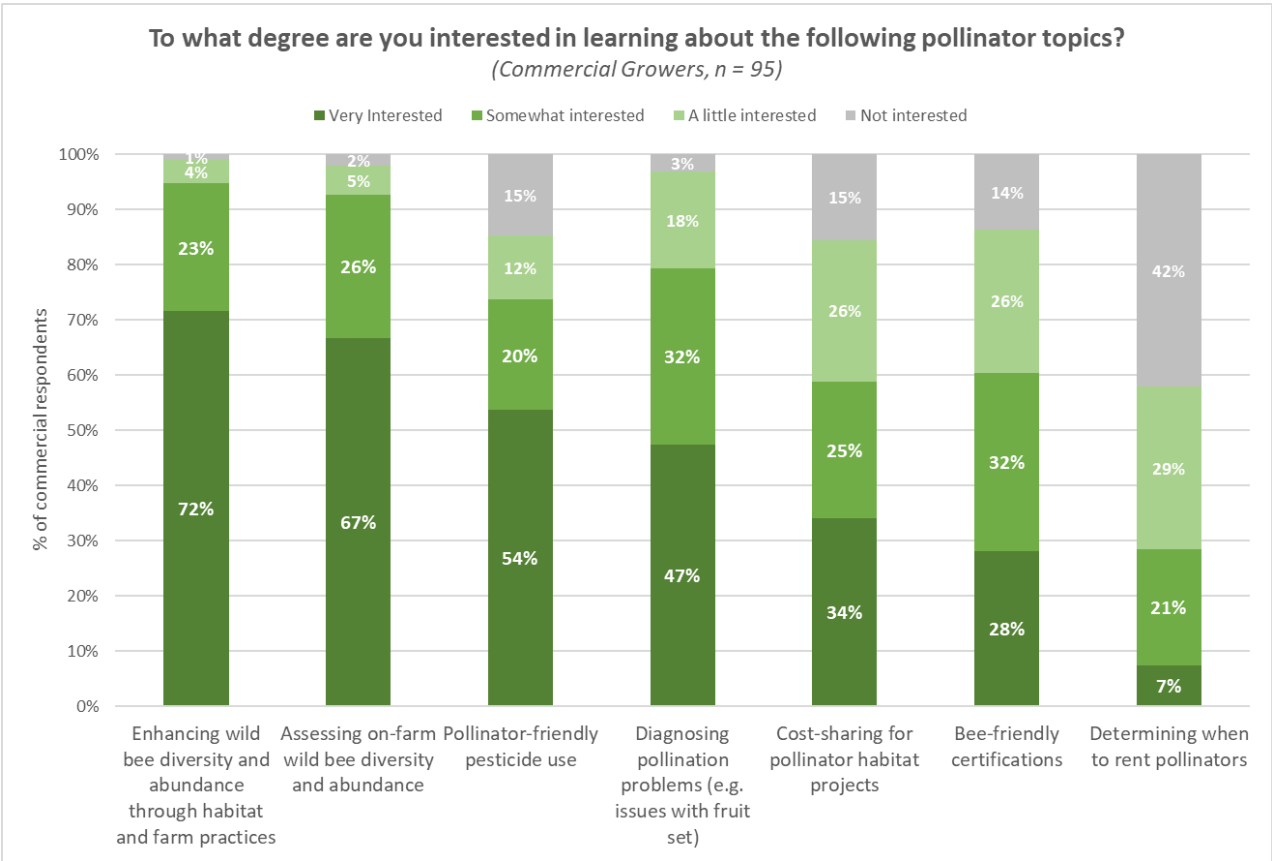
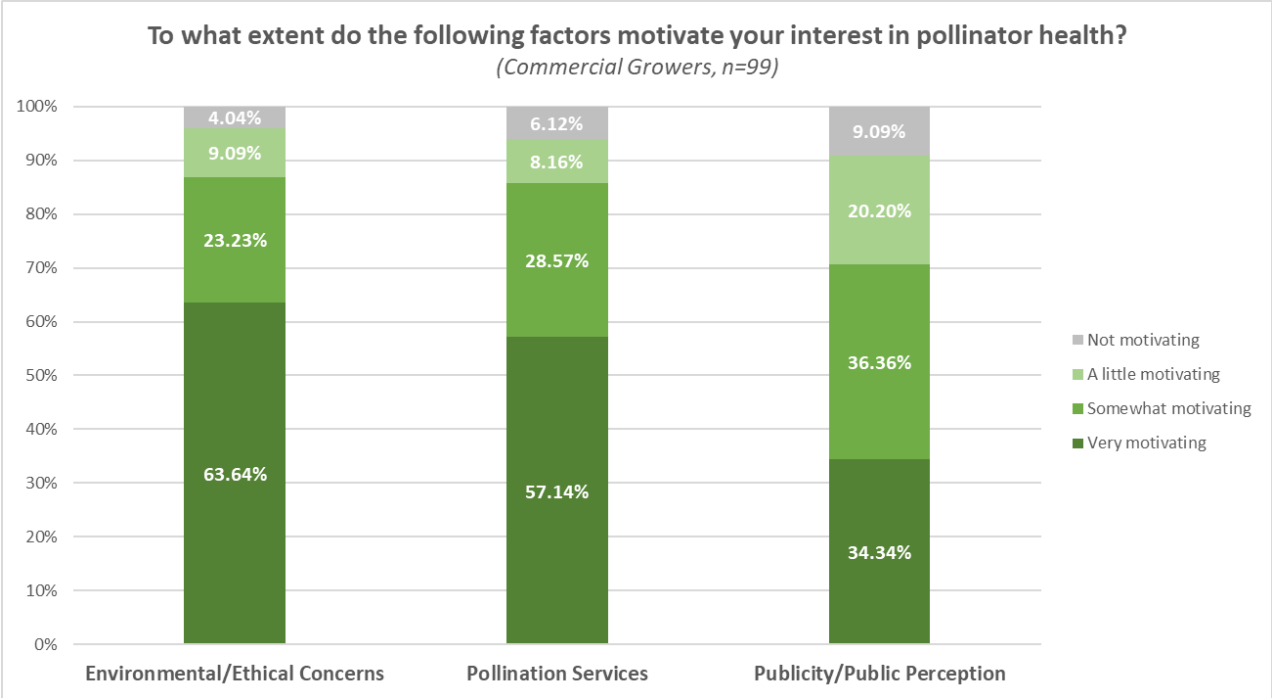
Does your farm contain any of the following types of **pollinator habitat**?

(Commercial growers, n = 94)

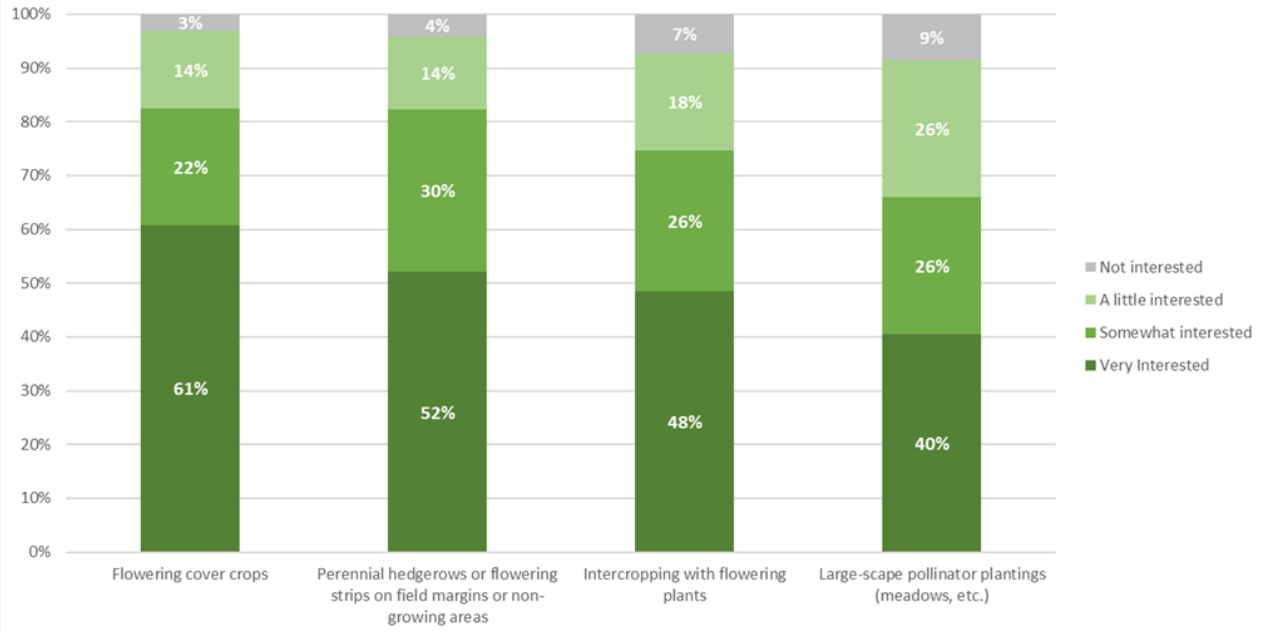


Interest in pollinator-related topics

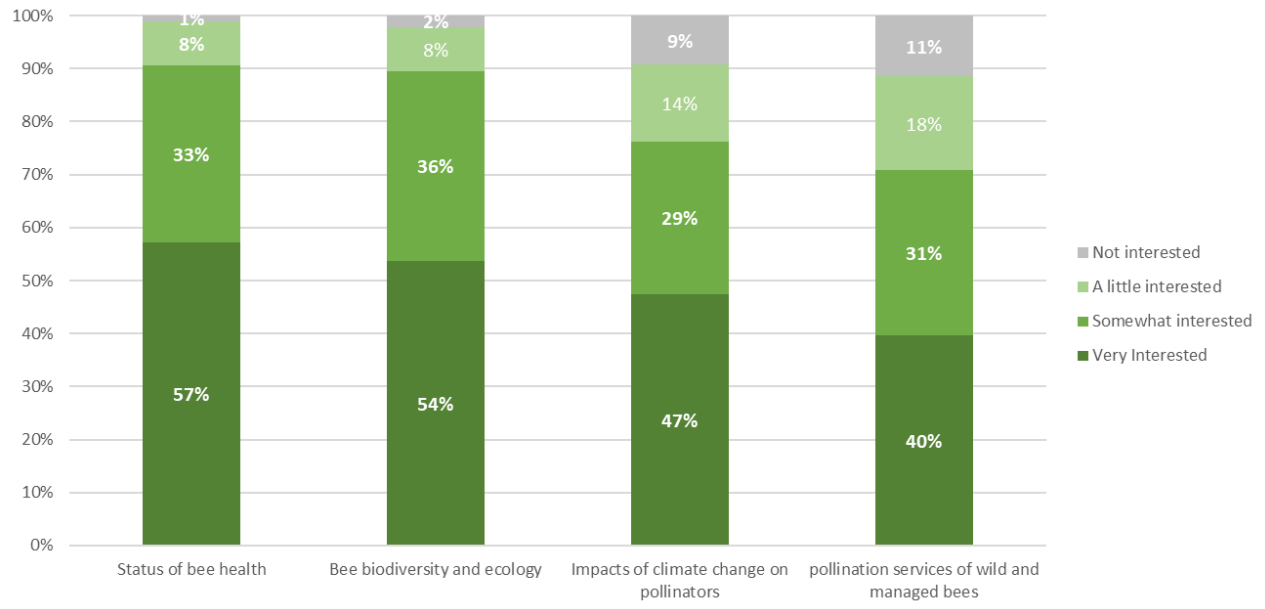
- Commercial respondents are more motivated by environmental/ethical concerns and pollination services than publicity or public perception
- 86.75% of commercial growers are interested in learning how to establish pollinator habitat
- 95.18% of commercial growers are interested in learning how to assess native bee abundance/diversity
- Interest in general pollinator topics (% = very interested)
 - Growers are most interested in:
 - *Enhancing wild bees through habitat and farm practices (72%)
 - *Assessing on-farm wild bee diversity and abundance (67%)
 - Middle interest:
 - Pollinator-friendly pesticide use (54%)
 - Diagnosing pollination problems (47%)
 - Least interest:
 - Cost sharing for pollinator habitat projects (34%)
 - Bee-friendly certifications (28%)
 - Very little interest:
 - Determining when to rent pollinators (7%)
- Interest in habitat enhancement strategies
 - Flowering cover crops (61%)
 - Perennial hedgerows or flowering strips on margins (52%)
 - Intercropping (49%)
 - Meadows (40%)
- Interest in pollinator biology topics
 - Status of bee health (57%)
 - Bee biodiversity and ecology (54%)
 - Impacts of climate change on bees (48%)
 - Pollination services of wild and managed bees (40%)
- What type of extension work do they want to see?
 - Growers are most interested in:
 - Research (43% very interested)
 - Fact sheets/articles (43%)
 - Middle Interest
 - Videos (34%)
 - Virtual Workshops/talks (34%)
 - Least Interest
 - In person workshops/talks (22%)
 - On-farm twilight presentations (20%)
 - Podcasts (19%)



To what degree are you interested in the following habitat enhancement strategies?
(Commercial Growers, n = ~95)



To what degree are you interested in the following pollination biology topics?
(Commercial growers, n = ~95)



Which type(s) of extension work would you most like to see on pollinator topics?

(Commercial growers, n = ~95)

