HORT NEWS AND TIPS

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Bees as an endangered species: a first!

This news item is taken from a publication of the Xerces Society, a non-profit organization that advocates on behalf of threatened, endangered and at-risk invertebrates and their habitats. "From the world's rarest butterflies, to caddisflies that live in only one stream, to declining bumble bee populations, the Xerces Society is dedicated to protecting invertebrates and the ecosystems that depend on them."

Last May, the White House released the National Strategy to Protect Pollinators and Their Habitat, which identified three priorities: reduce honeybee losses, protect monarch butterflies and create millions of acres of habitat. Thanks to this directive, pollinator conservation has become embedded into the work of every federal agency.

The Society also works with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to improve knowledge and conservation of monarchs in the western U.S. and with the Federal Highway Administration to improve roadside management for pollinators. This latter work involves the I-35 initiative to create monarch habitats in a broad swath up the middle of the United States.

Source: 2015, Fall. Xerces Supports Implementation of National Pollinator Stratwww.atlanticpetsolutions.net *WINGS,* pp. 28-29.

www.atlanticpetsolutions.net

Study looks at effects of climate change on bumble bees

How is climate change affecting bumble bees? Many other species' geographical ranges have expanded toward the poles while remaining relatively stable along their equatorial edges, but a new study from a team of European and North American researchers found that bumble bee species on both continents were experiencing pronounced losses of range from their southern edges while simultaneously failing to expand their ranges northward.

The researchers used observations gathered over 110 years to discern climate-change-related shifts across bumble bees' thermal and latitudinal limits, as well as their movements along elevation gradients. They found these effects to be independent of land-use changes and pesticide applications. Based on their findings, the authors believe that, across continents, climate change distinctly and consistently contributes to the compression of range for bumble bee species.

Source: http.www.sciencemag.org/content/349/6224/177.short