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Walmart launches ag-focused pilot in three states

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Walmart has planted 21 pollinator gardens at retail locations throughout Oregon, Washington and North Carolina. The gardens serve a dual purpose of adding to the beautification of the outdoor grounds at designated store properties and seeking to increase pollinators, including bees and butterflies, which have suffered population declines in recent decades.



To kick off this pilot project, the first garden was planted in April 2019 at a Walmart retail location in Garner, NC. A garden has also been planted at Walmart's global corporate headquarters in

Bentonville, AR. The remaining gardens in the Pacific Northwest were planted in late April or early May.

Some of Walmart's pollinator gardens include milkweed, a plant that monarch butterflies use for shelter, food and laying eggs. According to the Environmental Defense Fund, Monarch populations have dropped 90 percent in the past 20 years. Walmart hopes that the initiative will inspire customers, associates and other members of these local communities to plant their own pollinator gardens. Customers who are interested in purchasing pollinator flower seeds can ask a lawn and garden associate for details.

"We are delighted to initiate this pilot at some of our stores as these flower gardens enhance our landscaping and serve as an important habitat for the birds and insects that play a vital role in plant, vegetable and fruit reproduction," said Wendy Widener, with Walmart's environmental, health and safety compliance team. "We have received positive feedback from our customers and associates and are exploring opportunities to expand this project to additional store locations."

Walmart's pollinator gardens are currently located in five cities in Oregon, including, Redmond and Pendleton; 14 cities in Washington state, which include Aberdeen, Bellingham, Mount Vernon, Lakewood, and Yakima; Garner, NC; and Bentonville, AR.

This pollinator garden pilot is part of the company's larger commitment to use its size and scale for good and do business in a way that aims to enhance economic opportunity, encourage sustainability and strengthen local communities. Read more in the 2019 Walmart Environmental, Social and Governance Report.

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