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Appreciate Daylight and Pollination on Summer Solstice 2012

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There are two special environmental events in the US for us as Kitchen Gardners in the US to celebrate: the National Daylight Appreciation Day on June 21 and the National Pollinator Week on June 18-24. We are blogging to raise public awareness of and actions on these events.

In the Northern Hemisphere the summer 2012 begins on Wednesday June 20. In the US, this first day of summer June 20, or the following day, June 21, depending on the location, is the summer solstice, the day with the longest daylight of the year. On summer solstice the Sun is higher in the sky throughout the day, and its rays strike Earth at a more direct angle, causing the efficient warming and thus starting the season we call summer.

June 21, 2012, is the National Daylight Appreciation Day. Sponsored by Solatube International, it is created as a way to increase awareness about benefits and innovative uses of daylight in our everyday lives. It is also a day of education and awareness, leading us toward a more energy-efficient planet. We encourage everyone to use more daylight at home and work and keep the electrical lights turned off.

With flowers blooming in summer and most pollinators working in daylight, this week, June 18-24, is proclaimed National Pollinator Week by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Pollinator Week has now grown to be an international celebration of the valuable ecosystem services provided by bees, birds, butterflies, bats and beetles. The growing concern for the urgent issue of declining pollinator populations is a sign of progress, but it is vital that we continue to creat environment that supports pollinators and pollination.

CIEDM and ISERI staff are gathering on Wednesday June 20, 2012 in Arcadia EcoHome, taking advantage of the longer daylight to do yard work in the EcoHome's garden, a certified Pollinator Habitat and Wildlife Habitat, and to improve its support for pollinators. Specifically we will clear a plot at the frondyard and seed California Poppys, which enjoy sunlight and tolerate drought, to increase the garden areas for native plants.and native pollinators.

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