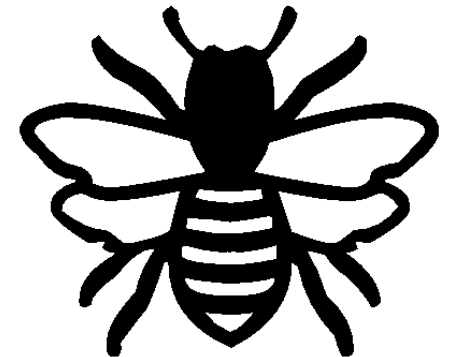


CREATE A BEE GARDEN



Attracting & Caring for These
Important Pollinators



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WHY PROTECT BEES?

Bees are a necessary part of our ecosystem. They are important to the life of flowering and fruiting plants. Without these pollinators our food crops would soon die off.

CREATE A BEE HAVEN

Bees thrive in wild areas with a variety of flowers, including dandelions and clover. Allow an area of your yard to grow wild. This will provide hiding places for them to rest, hide from predators and raise their young. Also, make sure to plant a variety of flowers that bloom in succession from spring through fall.

While some bees such as honey bees are social and live in hives, most bees are solitary. Some, such as the bumble bee, live underground in undisturbed places, so leave an untouched area in your yard. Mason bees live in small tube-like spaces. You can set up a bee house for the mason bees. (See our mason bee care brochure).

Bees get thirsty during the dry season so provide a shallow bowl of water with pebbles placed to break the water surface.

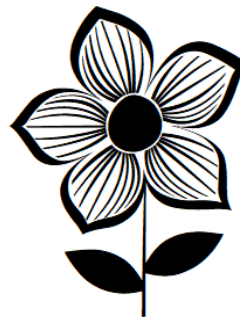
In the fall leave some yard debris such as leaf litter to allow insects to overwinter.

FAVORITE FLOWERS

To draw bees to your garden choose from the following list of plants.

- Aster
- Cosmos
- Echinacea (Coneflower)
- Gaillardia (Blanket Flower)
- Lavandula (Lavender)
- Liatris (Blazing Star)
- Lobelia (Cardinal Flower)
- Monarda (Bee Balm)
- Nepeta (Catmint)
- Paeonia (Peony)
- Penstemon
- Phlox
- Rudbeckia (Black-eyed Susan)
- Salvia
- Sedum
- Solidago (Goldenrod)
- Trifolium (Clover)

Mason bees need early blooming flowers (March through June) such as fruit trees.



PESTICIDES & HERBICIDES

Heavy use of pesticides and herbicides has led to declining bee populations. Following are some tips to deter pests without harming the bees.

1. Minimize the use of chemical pesticides and herbicides. If you decide to use these products, make sure to apply them AFTER flowers have faded. This way the pollinators will not be feeding from flowers with harmful chemicals.
2. Use other beneficial insects to control harmful insects such as ladybugs, lacewings, nematodes and praying mantises.
3. Use non-chemical or natural products such as sticky traps and pheromone traps.
4. Use products labeled bee friendly.
5. Plant natives. Natives are naturally more immune to diseases and damage from local insects.