We need plants. Plants need bees.

BEE Careful with Pesticides!


Almonds


Apples

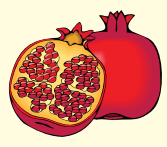

Avocados


Beans


Cherries


Citrus


Olives


Pomegranates


Sunflowers

Why are Bees and Other Pollinators Important to Us?

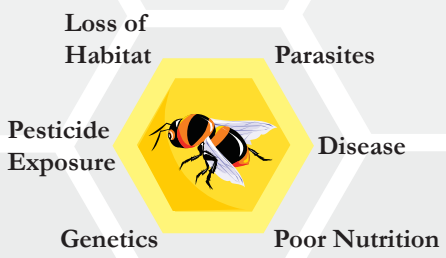
Pollinators include bees, butterflies, moths, birds, bats, beetles and other insects that move pollen within flowers, or carry it from flower to flower.

About 1/3 of the food you eat such as almonds, berries and many other fruits and vegetables depend on pollinators.

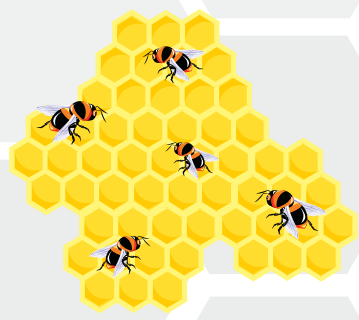
What is Happening to Bees?

Honey bee colonies have been lost at unprecedented rates in recent years.

The decline in honey bee health is a difficult problem with multiple contributing factors including: loss of habitat, parasites and disease, genetics, poor nutrition and pesticide exposure.



Pesticides known to be particularly harmful to bees have special labels on them. **To protect bees, it is important to read and follow label instructions when you use pesticides in your garden.**



BEE Extra Careful

Some pesticides are highly toxic to bees. Overuse and misuse of pesticides can be bad for pollinators. Think about when and where pesticides may be applied without harming pollinators. For example, do not apply to blooming flowers, or at any time you see pollinators in an area.


Do not apply


If needed, okay to apply

Tips for protecting bees when pesticide use is necessary:

- Do not apply pesticides when bees are likely to be flying. Bees generally are inactive from one hour after sunset to two hours before sunrise or when the temperature is below 55 F.
- Early evening application is best so pesticides can dry during the night.
- To minimize drift, do not apply pesticides on a windy day.

How You Can Help When Managing Pests in Your Garden

Step 1: Identify the problem

Knowing the problem is the first step towards solving it.

Step 2: Try to solve the problem without pesticides

Pests can often be managed safely without use of pesticides: Explore the University of California statewide Integrated Pest Management Program: http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/index.html

Step 3: Find the product that solves the problem

All products do not work on every pest. Labels tell how and when products should be applied to deal with certain types of pests.

Step 4: Buy and use the right amount; more is not necessarily better

Product labels tell how much to use to treat a problem. Using more can harm plants and lawns, and may be unsafe for people and pets. Some products might not work as well after being stored for a long period. A larger size might not be a good value.

Step 5: Use the product according to the label

Labels tell how to safely use products for best results. Use only the amount indicated. If the label tells you to mix a product in another container, make only as much as you can use. Do not ever apply more than is allowed by the label.

Step 6: Pay attention to warnings affecting bees and other pollinators

Understand when and how to apply the product to ensure pollinator safety.

Plant Pollinator-Friendly Flowers

Use pollinator-friendly plants in your garden. Different flower colors, shapes and scents will attract a wide variety of pollinators. If you have limited space, you can plant flowers in containers on a patio, balcony and even window boxes.

Reduce or eliminate pesticide use on your pollinator-friendly garden. Incorporate plants that attract beneficial insects for pest control. If you use pesticides, follow the directions to be sure you use the pesticide safely.

Find more information about pollinators at EPA's Pollinator Protection web page:

http://www2.epa.gov/pollinator-protection

Report Bee Kills

To report a large bee kill, please contact the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at:
beekill@epa.gov

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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