



Protecting Pollinators

The news has been buzzing lately about the decline of our bee populations, and the dramatic consequences their loss could have globally.

According to Greenpeace.org, 70 out of the top 100 human food crops - which supply about 90 percent of the world's nutrition - are pollinated by bees.

Bee decline has been linked to:

- Disease and pest issues
- Continuous drought conditions
- Habitat destruction
- Lack of nutrition available
- Global warming/environmental issues

How homeowners can make a difference

The two easiest ways to make your space more bee friendly are by planting the proper flowers for nutrition and providing them with a clean water supply.

Flowers which support pollinators

Bees need flowers to collect nectar and pollen throughout the growing season. Your garden plan should include plants, shrubs and trees that bloom at different intervals (early spring through the first frost). Planting "drifts" of a single type of flower makes it easier for the bees to locate the blooms, and you'll enjoy the beautiful masses of flowers as well.



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Here is a list of some great plants, shrubs and trees that bees love:

Perennials:

Crocus, Daffodil, Hyacinth, Tulip, Allium, Broom, Penstemon, Salvia, Heliotrope, Foxglove, Primrose, Peony, Scabiosa, Iris, Dianthus, Thyme, Sedum, Ice Plant, Butterfly Weed, Dahlia, Blanket Flower, Veronica, Day lily, Oriental lily, Delphinium, Clematis, Honeysuckle, Wisteria, Gladiola, Hibiscus, Mint, Coneflower, Bee Balm, Hyssop, Lavender, Coreopsis, Russian Sage, Astilbe, Coral Bells, Yarrow, Goldenrod, Anemone, Maximilian Sunflower

Shrubs:

Nine bark, Forsythia, Lilac, Daphne, Viburnum, Pussy Willow, Cistene Plum, Nanking Cherry, Blueberry, Cotoneaster, Pyracantha, Magnolia, Barberry, Rose, Butterfly Bush, Mock Orange, Spirea, Potentilla, Rose of Sharon, Hydrangea

Trees:

Maple, Crabapple, Plum, Peach, Apple, Redbud, Apricot, Cherry, Hawthorn, Honey Locust, Black locust, Pear, Linden, Golden Rain Tree, Pagoda Tree, Buckeye, Horse Chestnut, Catalpa

Annuals:

Squash, Tomato, Pepper, Basil, Borage, Sunflower, Zinnia, Eggplant, Watermelon, Cantaloupe, Bean, Cucumber, Dill, Tomatillo, Cosmos

Bees need hydration

Bee colonies need water throughout the year. During hot summer days, the bees will use the water they've collected to cool down their hive, as well as to dilute stored honey so it's easier to consume.

There are many ways you can provide water for bees in your yard, but if you're not ready to commit to a koi pond or water garden a birdbath is an easy, cost-effective solution. Remember bees need to have an easy place to land in order to drink - they are not graceful flyers and can drown if there is no place for them to stand.