

Gardening for Pollinators

How are pollinators impacted by pesticides?

Why is it important to garden with pollinators in mind?



How do pesticides impact pollinators?

Sublethal

Pesticide levels that do not kill bees at significant rates may nonetheless have effects on performance that inhibit tasks such as olfactory learning, foraging, and reproduction, which affects hive survival.



Lethal

Many pesticides are acutely toxic to bees and result in death.

Food Availability

Pesticides can negatively affect food availability for bees both directly and indirectly by contaminating their food sources, reducing the number of plants available for foraging, impairing their foraging behavior, and decreasing overall plant health and pollination success.

Synergistic

Often pesticides have more toxic effects in combination than alone.

Beekeepers in the United States face an average loss of nearly half of their colonies. For many who work close to pesticide intensive farming practices, the losses have run much higher—often 70-95%



Neonicotinoids are so toxic that one treated corn seed contains enough insecticide to kill over 80,000 honey bees.

In the last 20 years, the once common western bumble bee (*Bombus occidentalis*) has declined by more than 90%.

How can I help?



Bee Safe
Neonic Free



Purchase
plants free of
neonicotinoids

Go organic to
support
pollinator
health

Plant a
garden with
pollinators in
mind

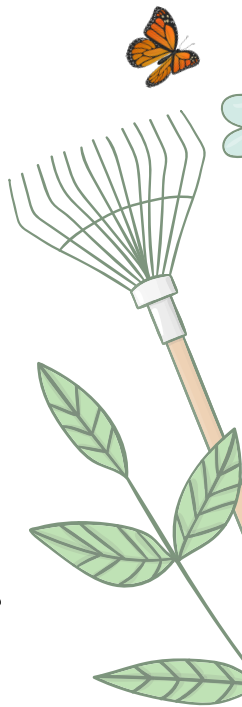
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Plant Diversity

Include plants with different flower shapes, sizes, colors, and bloom times to attract a wide range of pollinators throughout the growing season. Bees collect only one type of pollen during a foraging trip, so clumps of a single species (3 sq ft) will attract more of them. One easy way to do this in a veggie garden is to place a block of flowers at the end of each bed or row.



Water for Pollinators

It is important to help create and maintain water sources for pollinators. A simple bee bath can be set up using a shallow basin filled water and a few stones strategically placed to allow bees a place to land and drink water.

Replace Lawn

Turf lawns lead to reduced forage opportunities for pollinators. Consider replacing part of your lawn with native plants or trees instead.

Include Native plants

By incorporating native plants into your landscape, you can help provide nectar and pollen to an array of pollinators including native bees, butterflies, moths, wasps, flies, birds, and beetles.



Chemical Free

Pesticides can kill or damage pollinators. Instead of spraying, learn about integrated pest management and use a wide range of preventative methods to address concerns and protect pollinators. By using strategies like increased plant diversity, crop rotation, soil health improvements, selection of pest resistant cultivars, and support of beneficial insect habitat, gardeners can avoid use of chemical products.

No Till

No till promotes a healthy garden ecosystem with far fewer insect and disease problems. In organic no till gardens, mulch helps to retain moisture in the soil and provides a habitat for pollinators especially in the winter months.

Water Plants

Water your plants regularly. Pollinators need water to survive, so it's important to water your plants regularly. Use drip irrigation or other water saving method to apply water directly to the roots.

Bloom

Flowers should bloom in your garden continuously throughout the growing season.



Learn more
about
gardening for
pollinators

