

Did you know that bees pollinate much of the food that makes our diet tasty and healthy and they also pollinate food for birds and small mammals.

Bees around the world are in serious trouble due to the loss of habitat and food sources, use of toxic pesticides and modern agricultural practices.

You can help by planting a bee friendly garden and using alternatives to pesticides in your garden, schools, businesses and our public spaces.

Let's be a Bee Friendly Australia!

Download our free **'Love Food? Love Bees!'** curriculum units for Early Learning, Year 5/6 and Year 9/10 created with Cool Australia and aligned with the Australian National Curriculum. actforbees.org/resources/curriculum/

Help promote bee friendly gardening in your neighbourhood by downloading a free **Bee Friendly Garden** sign for your front garden.

To find out more ways you can help our busy buzzing friends visit actforbees.org



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HOW TO GROW A BEE FRIENDLY GARDEN

STEP 1 Plan and plant your garden



Here are just a few suggestions to help you get started. A more detailed planting guide is available at actforbees.org/resources/gardening-for-bees/

Herbs are the bee's medicine chest. Let them flower for as long as possible. Basil, Perennial Basil, Borage, Comfrey, Coriander, Dill, Echinacea, Lavender, Lemon Balm, Marjoram, all Mints, Oregano, Parsley, Rosemary, Thyme, Sage, Rocket, Verbena.

Flowers are enjoyed by everyone. Clover, Dandelions, Marigolds, Nasturtiums, Sunflowers.

Native plants are good sources of nectar, including Grevillea, Eucalyptus, Banksia, Brachyscome, Bottlebrush, Tea Trees and Westringia. Some species of Grevillea and Callistemon can flower twice a year. Wattles provide good pollen particularly in early spring.

Fruit trees Apples, Pears, Citrus and Stonefruit.

Vegetables when allowed to go to seed offer extra nutrition to bees, birds and other insects.

STEP 2 Avoid the nasties



Neonicotinoids are a group of widely used systemic pesticides that are harmful to bees. They are used on farms, as well as around our homes, schools and city landscapes.



At sublethal levels they affect bee's immune systems and can also disorientate the bees so they can't return to the hive.

Avoid products that contain Acetamidprid, Imidacloprid, Clothianidin, Thiamethoxam

Some common brand names to avoid

All Confidor (Yates) Insecticides
Amgrow Rose Spray Advanced
Sharp Shooter Complete Bug and Insect Spray
Yates Rose Gun Advanced
Yates Complete Lawn and Garden Insecticide

Ask before you buy plants what chemical treatments have been used on them.

STEP 3 Watch the bees buzz and your garden thrive



There are many natural ways to create balance in your garden and help bees and insect pollinators thrive including companion planting and mulching. Attract the pest control team of ladybirds, lizards, small birds and beneficial predator insects by planting flowers and avoiding pesticides.



BUILD YOUR VERY OWN INSECT HOTEL

Insect hotels offer a home for native bees and other insect pollinators.



Learn how to build your own hotel at actforbees.org/resources/australian-native-bees/

Further information about how to grow a bee friendly garden together with a detailed planting guide is available at actforbees.org/resources/gardening-for-bees/