

SAVE the BEES

Plant bee-friendly

- Marigolds, lilacs, honeysuckle and black-eyed Susans are among bees' favorite flowers.
- Herbs such as lavender and sage also draw them in.
- Ask your local greenhouse what native plants attract bees.



Avoid pesticides

- Opt for natural methods to control weeds and insects.
- Corn gluten meal is a natural, pre-emptive strike against weeds when applied in early spring.
- Cloves, vinegar or cayenne pepper effectively ward off winged pests.
- Oils from thyme, rosemary and mint can also be used. Put 10-15 drops of your essential oil blend into a spray bottle with 2 cups of water. Shake the bottle very well right before use and spray your plants on the top and bottom of the leaves.

Spray wisely

- If you choose to use pesticides, never spray on open blooms or budding flowers.
- Wait for the blossoms to wither and drop to the ground.
- Apply to leaves, stems and roots.
- Spray on the ground instead of the plant.
- Spray at night when the bees aren't working.



Plant the fearsome four

- Select these plants for their pest-repelling properties:
Catnip • Dill • Mint • Nasturtium

Forget about a perfectly manicured yard

- View weeds as natural food sources for pollinators.
- Wait a week to mow back those yellow dandelions in bloom. A host of bees and butterflies will flock to your yard to enjoy this lifesaving nectar and pollen in the spring.

Enlist helpful bugs

- Ladybugs, spiders, dragonflies and praying mantis are among the most helpful when it comes to getting rid of unwanted pests in your garden.
- One ladybug can eat up to 5,000 aphids in its lifetime.

Provide a water source

- Yes, it's that simple. Bees get thirsty. Set out a basin of clean water.
- The birds love it, too. In fact, a heated bird bath is a great source to ensure fresh water is available during the cold winter months.



For more information on the importance of bees, visit

gretemangroup.com/FreeToBee



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