



Feed a Bee

Feed a Bee is a major initiative to increase food for honey bees and other pollinators by planting more flowers and establishing additional forage acreage. Working with individuals and organizations across various sectors, Feed a Bee will help to provide pollinators with the diverse forage and habitat they need to thrive.

Why Feed a Bee?

Reduced forage has decreased food options for bees at a time when agriculture and apiculture must work together to feed more people. As bees feed us, we can help feed them. **Here's why it's important:**

- As the world's most heavily traveled livestock, bees are transported to pollinate crops where resources cannot sustain large bee populations.
- A world population of over nine billion people will require some 70 percent more food by 2050.
- Pollinators need access to diverse sources of food to be properly nourished and able to withstand pests and disease.
- We rely on them to pollinate many of the fruits, nuts and vegetables that the world needs for a healthy, nutritious diet.

This is all the more reason for us to help feed the bees!

How You Can Help

The Feed a Bee initiative relies on the power of collaborations with individuals and organizations. Here are a few ways you can join the Feed a Bee initiative to help them thrive:

- Visit www.FeedABee.com to find out more about ongoing activities, educational resources, a map tracking the success of Feed a Bee plantings in all 50 states, and a real-time look at the online conversation buzzing around **#FeedABee**.

- Share your planting photos using **#FeedABee** on social networking sites, including Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Tumblr.
- Visit www.BeeHealth.Bayer.us to see more planting tips to help you plant your very own pollinator haven.
- Whether you own acres of land or just a flower pot on your back deck, you can help improve bee health by planting bee-attractant flowers that supply bees with pollen and nectar.



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We can all agree that bees are important. Let's work together to help them thrive.
Join us at www.FeedABee.com.



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Tips for Planting Your Own Pollinator-Friendly Gardens

Feed a Bee encourages you to plant a pollinator-friendly habitat in your garden using these helpful tips:

- **Plant flowers that are best adapted to where you live.** They are the normal food source for local pollinators. The Pollinator Partnership's Bee Smart mobile app is a great resource to help you choose pollinator-attracting plants in your area. Visit www.pollinator.org to learn more.
- **Plan for a long season of bloom.** Combine plants that will bloom from early spring to fall (even in winter in milder climates). A long season of color means a consistent food source all season.
- **Include diverse flower colors, fragrances and shapes.** Bees are especially attracted to flowers in shades of blue, purple, white and yellow. Butterflies love red and purple blooms.
- **Plant in full sun.** Many pollinators prefer to visit sunny locations.
- **Plant generously.** Large groupings of flowers are more attractive than single plants.
- **Minimize hybrid flowering plants.** Many hybrids are bred to have less fragrance, nectar or pollen.
- **Provide food and water sources.** Use feeders to attract hummingbirds or salt licks to lure butterflies. Provide fresh water – bee colonies require a ready source of water.
- **Provide habitat for nesting and egg-laying.** Grassy or weedy areas, shrubbery, wooden logs, “bat houses” and “bee blocks” can provide nesting areas and/or cover for pollinators.
- **Use pesticides wisely.** Follow label instructions and avoid spraying when pollinators are active.
- **Planting and care.** Choose plants that are well-adapted to the sun and soil conditions in your garden. Water as needed (even native plants will need water until established).

Developed by author and garden expert Lance Walheim, whose books include Citrus and The Natural Rose Gardener, Roses for Dummies and Lawn Care for Dummies.

HERE ARE SOME PLANTS THAT CAN BE GROWN IN MOST AREAS OF THE U.S.

- Lavender (*Lavandula* spp.)
- Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*)
- Sage (*Salvia* spp.)
- Coneflower (*Echinacea* spp.)
- Sunflower (*Helianthus* spp.)
- Redbud (*Cercis* spp.)
- Catnip (*Nepeta* spp.)
- Penstemon (*Penstemon* spp.)
- Lamb's ear (*Stachys* spp.)
- Verbena (*Verbena* spp.)
- Bell or Phacelia (*Phacelia* spp.)
- Aster (*Aster* spp.)
- Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia* spp.)
- Oregano (*Origanum* spp.)
- Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)

Plant list sourced by Lynn Hasselberger, Green Diva and founder of myEARTH360.com



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For more information on Bayer's bee health initiatives, including Feed a Bee, please visit www.BeeHealth.Bayer.us.