

A guide to

BEEKEEPING



Inside you'll find...

- Benefits of bees
- Fun bee facts
- What you can do to help save bees
....and more!

A little guy with big responsibilities

So WHY keep bees?

Besides producing sweet, golden honey, bees are actually very important to our world. Bees have a big job...they're responsible for pollinating the crops our global food source depends on. As they buzz from flower to flower, bees pollinate roughly 71 of the 100 fruit, vegetable, nut, and other crop plant species that provide 90% of the world's food. One out of every three bites of food we eat was pollinated by bees.

Without bees, we wouldn't have:

Apples, mangos, pears, kiwi fruit, plums, peaches, raspberries, blackberries, celery, almonds, coconut, green beans, avocados, watermelon, strawberries, cherries, vanilla, cabbage, coffee, cranberries, cocoa, cashews, cotton, macadamia nuts, lemons, limes, carrots, cucumber, cantaloupe, tomatoes, peppers, walnuts, broccoli, cauliflower, onions, grapes, and more!

Fun facts about bees

- It's been said that caring for bees takes less time than caring for a pet dog, and a little more time than caring for a cat
 - A honey bee visits 50 to 100 flowers during a collection trip, & they travel up to 2 miles on average looking for food
 - Honey bees communicate with one another by dancing
 - Worker bees will die if they sting.
- Drones have no stingers
- A single hive can produce up to 100 lbs. of honey in a year



How you can help save the bees!

Plant pollinator-friendly flowers

Plant a diverse range of flowers and plants that bloom at different times throughout the year for a constant food source.

Avoid pesticides

in your yard and garden, and avoid flowers treated with neonicotinoids, which have been linked to Colony Collapse Disorder.



Offer habitat

Not all bees live in hives. Some create a home underground or in cavities found in old trees. Leave some soil undisturbed or offer a “bee house.”

Bees need water!

Leave a shallow pan of water with rocks, a brick or tennis ball in it that is not submerged. They need something to land on to drink so they don't drown.

Contact your local lawmakers

to have them change city ordinances to allow residents to keep bees in their yard



Here are some bee friendly plants:

- Rosemary
- Wild Geranium
- Poppies
- Clover
- Sunflowers
- Beebalm
- Oregano
- Purple Coneflower
- Sedum
- Yellow Coneflower
- Asters
- Zinnias
- Marigolds
- Milkweed



Learn more about bees and their hives

Bees are self-sufficient! They have a complex social hierarchy in their hive and each bee has a job!



Queen: responsible for laying all the eggs in the colony. She is easily recognized by her long body with an abdomen that extends beyond her wings



Workers: these female bees perform various tasks in the hive like cell cleaning, larvae feeding, comb construction, and as they get older, they're the ones out foraging and harvesting pollen and nectar



Drones: these male bees are responsible for going out of the hive and mating with another queen bee

All about the bee hive:

