

Bee Friendly Habitats

Create an Oasis for bees and other pollinators

- 1. Choose plants that attract bees.** These include wild flowers, annual and perennial flowers, flowering herbs, vegetables, native plants and shrubs such as Service Berry, Oregon Grape and milkweed, trees such as willows and maples.
- 2. Group the same plants together.** Plant at least one square yard of the same plant as a bee attractant. Or wildflowers in window box or lavender in a large pot/s.
- 3. Pick plants with long blooming cycles or a variety of plants with different bloom periods.** Such planning will enable bees to have season-round food.
- 4. Let your plants flower.** Honeybees need the flowers for pollen and nectar. So harvest broccoli but let the plant live and allow the small buds that come from the side stems to flower so the bees can enjoy these leftovers.
- 5. Provide a fresh water source.** A sloping bird bath with a stone for the bees to stand on or any shallow water source will do. Leaves that have been sprinkled by the hose or morning dew could be a favorite destination for thirsty bees.
- 6. Do not use pesticides, herbicides or other chemicals in your garden or lawn.** Try squirting weeds with a bit of white undiluted vinegar and a few drops of liquid dish soap (which will help the vinegar adhere to the weed's leaves.)
- 7. Appreciate the beauty of weeds.** Dandelions, clover and milkweed and other flowering weeds are important food sources for bees. Allow some of these plants to exist as part of the bee friendly garden.
- 8. Rethink your lawn.** Replace part or all of it with flowering plants or shrubs which provide food and habitat for the bees, butterflies and other pollinators.
- 9. Build homes for native bees.** Leave a patch of the garden in a sunny spot uncultivated for native bees that burrow. For wood and stem nesting bees make a pile of branches, bamboo sections or hollow reeds where the bees can enter.
- 10. Respect bees. Our food production partly depends on them.** Take photos and share with others your awareness of bees.

Ideas gleaned from [The Honeybee Conservancy.Org](http://TheHoneybeeConservancy.Org) and BeverlyBees.com and Annie Drager