



BEE FACTS

What you can do to help

The significant decline of honeybee and other pollinator populations threatens food security, biodiversity and ecosystems, with dire consequences for the human race and the planet.

1.4 billion livelihoods globally rely on pollinators. 77% of the world food supply depends on pollinators.

87% of the world's flowering plant species depend on pollination.

Bees and pollinators are critical to the future of the world's 7.6 billion people and to the future of the planet.

What can you do to help?

1. Volunteer to help create a "bee garden" in your community: a grassy verge could be a start.

2. Bees need trees.

Bees aren't only just interested in perennials - they get most of their nectar from trees. When a tree blooms, it provides bees with hundreds if not thousands of blossoms to feed from.

Trees are not only a great food source for bees but they are also essential to a bee's habitat. Tree leaves and resin provide nesting material for bees, while their natural wood cavities make excellent shelters. With deforestation and development on the rise, could you help protect bee habitats by caring for trees and joining, or starting, tree-planting work parties in your area?

3. Create a Bee Bath.

Fill a shallow birdbath or a small dish or bowl with clean water, and arrange pebbles and stones inside so that they poke out of the water. Bees will land on the stones and pebbles to drink the water as they take a break from foraging and pollinating.

4. Build homes for solitary and bumble bees.

With the exception of honeybees, most bees are solitary creatures. 70% of bees live underground, while 30% live in holes inside of trees or hollow stems. Since many solitary and bumble bees build their nests in undisturbed land, could you set aside a small bit of untouched ground in your garden?

Here's how to make a really easy to build home for bumble bees :

Once 10cm terracotta pot

Garden moss

Pet hay

Total time:

15 minutes

Step 1

Take a clay pot and pop a small clump of moss from your garden over the drainage hole.

Step 2

Loosely fill the pot with hay so that the moss drops when the pot is turned over, allowing access for the bee.

Step 3

Choose a warm sheltered spot, such as the foot of a hedge. Scrape away a little soil, enough to bury half the pot. Turn the pot upside down into the hole and push the soil back around it.

5. And you can still help save the bees if you don't have a garden - a balcony or concrete yard can be filled with pots. Here are some plant ideas:

White thrift is only 15cm tall. This tough little perennial is a superb plant for sunny, urban sites and window boxes.

Smaller relatives of larger pollinator-magnets are great for gardeners with little outdoor space. Catmint “Blue Moon” is 30cm high and 20cm wide, while Echimium Vulgare “Blue Bedder” is a compact viper’s bugloss that can be grown from seed scattered in a container. Team up with pale yellow scabious and the fragrant flowers of sweet alyssum “Snowdrift”.