



PROTECTING OUR POLLINATORS

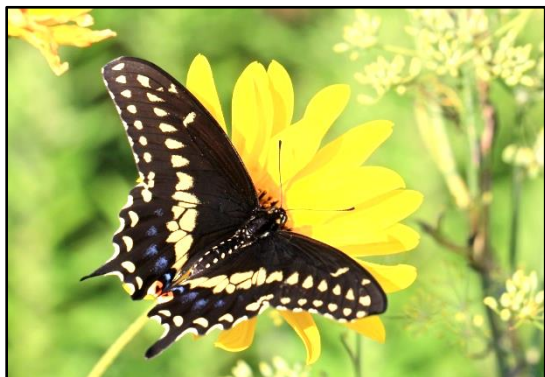
We are all concerned about the health of the bees which pollinate our crops and support our environment. The health of bees is critical to us all, and we need pollinators.

Bee colonies are suffering from a number of issues including decimating Varroa mites, the stress of being trucked across long distances to pollinate crops, pathogens, poor beekeeping practices, nutritional issues and habitat loss.



Use of neonicotinoid insecticides is also killing pollinators. It is good to know, however, that we are becoming sensitive to the issue. As proof, the number of beehives today is higher than in 1995 when neonicotinoids first came onto the market and are now at 20-year highs in North America and Europe.

Honey production in the United States was up by 14% last year and the number of bee colonies producing honey also increased by 4%.



You Can Support Pollinator Populations

Plant a diverse selection of bee-friendly plants and flowers that bloom all season, providing pollen and nesting sources throughout the growing season.

Rethink your mowed lawn. If you have the space, allow some natural spaces with wild flowers, which will support a greater diversity of bees and other pollinators.

Provide uncultivated spaces with open mud and fresh water which native mason bees need to build their nests.

Use beneficial insects or mites to deal with pests.

Use selective insecticides to deal with insect pest problems.



Avoid applying any pesticides to plants in flower and during the day when bees, and other pollinators are active.

If you are having a problem with a large bee hive built in a troublesome place, consider calling a local beekeeper to move it rather than using chemicals to kill the bees.

