



SUPPORTING BEES

Our top tips for encouraging pollinators into your space and supporting them when they're there! Without bees our food security is at risk!



FREE DOWNLOAD

When Bee Foundation's Powerful
Pollinator Planting Guides

Encouraging insect pollinators in
farm and garden landscapes in
your local area.

Bees are so important to our livelihood as they help to pollinate most of the crops we eat and many that feed farm livestock. In fact, nearly two-thirds of Australia's agricultural production benefits from bee pollination. Bees are vital for biodiversity and ecosystem health.

The European honey bee, along with approximately 2,500 Australian native bees, are keystone pollinators of our forests, fodder, flowers, fibre and fruit crops.



1. GROW A RAINBOW!

Did you know that bees see yellow and blue flowers really well, but red flowers look black to a bee? When you grow a rainbow of colours of blooms, choose plenty of flowers that are blue, yellow, cream, orange, gold, purple, mauve, white, and indigo. These are great to attract bees to your garden!

2. SPLISH, SPLASH

Honey bees need water for keeping hydrated, and also for cooling the hive. When the weather is warm, individual bees will visit water sources like bird baths or swimming pools to collect water. A bee may consume the water to quench their thirst, or take water back to the hive where it is used to cool the inside of the hive, just like an air-conditioner!

Provide a safe and accessible source of water for bees in your school ground - place a shallow dish or bird bath in a sunny site, away from people, where bees have good access to the water. Ensure the surface of the dish or container isn't smooth and slippery, or bees will drown - place textured rocks or bricks in the container for bees to land on, and keep the container topped up on warm days. You could nominate students to be water monitors who fill the bee drinking station every morning before the day is warm, or bees are flying.

3. HOME SWEET HOME

Bees need a safe and suitable place in which to nest, breed or store food. Most Australian native bees live as solitary bees finding homes in cracks in bark of trees, or burrow in soft, dry ground, or even build nests in hollow stems of reeds. Honey bees, and some species of native bees, live in groups (called colonies) in larger nesting spaces of hollow trees, wall cavities, or are managed in hives by beekeepers.

Give a helping hand to bees in your school ground by including lots of different materials which make great nesting places for bees - plants with rough or peeling bark, bare areas of ground, even home-made bee hotels with various sized cavities and hollows are great to attract pollinators and bees to your garden.

4. FLOWERS ALL YEAR ROUND

Just like you and me, bees need to have something to eat every day. Flowers provide pollen and nectar for bees to eat, to store food in their hive, and to make food for baby bees. It's important to grow a range of plants that flower at different times, so there's something in flower at any time of the year.

Centaurea is a bee-friendly flower that is easy to grow in many areas and has a relatively long flowering season. The strong scent of lavender entices bees and pollinators. Grevillea is a native that has a long flowering season and produces good amounts of nectar.



Centre
For Bee
Education

Centre for Bee Education is a collaboration between When Bee Foundation and Bee School by Beechworth Honey and provides a wealth of learning resources and tools on the important role bees and other pollinators play in the environment and food production systems.

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through learning



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SCHOOL**
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