



Homeowners Helping Honeybees

A One-Step-at-a-Time Guide for Helping Honeybees at Your Home Base

Re-frame Your Brain: Weeds are oftentimes perceived as a nuisance, and no doubt they can be! But many plants we consider “weeds” are actually super helpful nitrogen-fixing plants that create rich soil for other plants. The next time you mow your lawn, consider leaving some of the dandelions, michaelmas daisies or clover to name a few. These plants help you, your yard, and feed native pollinators!

Simple Steps to Help Native Pollinators at Your Home:

1. Plant pollinator friendly plants and perennials. Bonus points if you have year-round blooms! Easy to manage plants such as rosemary, black eyed susans, echinacea, yarrow, blackberry vines, and jasmine are always winners. Are you a lazy gardener? Throw a pollinator packet of seeds in the back yard and watch them grow!
2. Think before you spray. Both herbicides and pesticides have harmful effects on people, plants, and places. Oftentimes picking a time each month to pull unwanted plants, tend to landscaping, and maintain a more natural approach to pest prevention goes a long way. Thinking of pesky mosquitoes? Tiki torches, disposing of standing water, and a natural pest spray is the ticket!
3. Involve the neighborhood! We are all for a team effort and sometimes change is easier when you have a community to rely on. Approach your neighbors about working together to motivate change. These things don't happen overnight and a supported effort helps when you just don't know what to do next.
4. Water source for birds and the bees. If you're thinking “I thought you just said no standing water?!” then you're right. However, many outdoor supply stores sell handy bird bath fountains to hook onto bird baths. These tools keep water fresh and moving.
5. Create a Habitat. You've already planted pollinator friendly plants, avoid mowing down helpful native plants, and installed a water source, what's next? Let's make a house a home with mason bee hives, a bat house, and/or bird houses. Each item is a great activity for kids to build paint, and source sustainable materials. Before you know it your home will be buzzing!

Quick Tip for Bees in Your Home (Swarm Time)! If you ever experience a bee swarm, don't bee* afraid. This is simply a honeybee hive's way of relocating when their current home becomes too small or unsafe. Call a local beekeeper to safely remove the hive. This helps out your local beekeepers AND saves a healthy hive from die off.

