

4 WAYS TO HELP BEES HELP YOU!



Both *wild bees* and *managed bees* are important crop pollinators. The more bees that visit your crop, the better the fruit and nut set. Here are four steps that you can take on your farm to help bees help you:



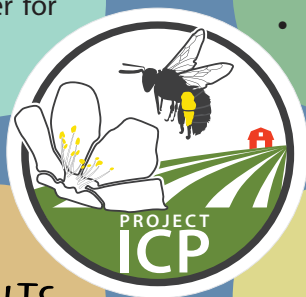
COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR BEEKEEPER

- Write a grower-beekeeper pollination contract to set expectations on both sides.
- Let your beekeeper know in advance if you'll be applying pesticides when bees are in the crop.
- In dry areas, provide bees with clean, pesticide-free water. Honey bees need clean water for cooling the hive on hot days.

MINIMIZE PESTICIDE RISKS TO BEES



- Use integrated pest management (IPM) to make pest management decisions and reduce reliance on chemical pest control.
- Avoid applying pesticides during bloom. If pesticides are needed, apply after dusk or before dawn when bees are less active. Avoid tank mixes.
- Whenever possible, select pesticides that are less toxic to bees.



MAINTAIN AREAS WITH FLOWERING PLANTS

- Flowering plants, including trees and shrubs, can provide pollen and nectar for both managed and wild bees.
- Natural areas can act as refuges, providing nesting and foraging areas that are protected from pesticides.
- Reduce mowing, spraying, and disking of field edges to let wild plants bloom and to protect bees that nest underground.

PLANT MORE FLOWERS!



- Blooming crops can provide a feast for bees, but bees still need to eat and provide for their young before and after crop bloom.
- Plant a diverse set of flowering plants that bloom throughout the season. Make sure areas with flowering plants are protected from pesticide drift and runoff.
- Add blooming cover crops to provide more forage for bees.

