

## WAYS TO CREATE BEE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

- ❑ **Plant native plants.** Native plants are adapted to our local climate, soil and native pollinators. Plants that bloom at different times of year ensure a continual supply of nectar and pollen resources.
- ❑ **Provide water.** A shallow dish, bowl or bird bath with half-submerged stones will provide the bees with much-needed moisture.
- ❑ **Construct windbreaks.** Bees' small size makes them susceptible to strong wind. You can prevent this by creating windbreaks around plants and bee houses, using porous materials or objects like netting, mesh and screens.
- ❑ **Provide resting and nesting sites.** Leaving dead limbs, a pile of rocks, sticks or grass clippings provides shelter for ground nesters. You can add a bee house or nesting block to attract more cavity-nesting bee species.
- ❑ **Add a rain garden with diverse native plants.** A rain garden is a garden of native shrubs, perennials and flowers planted in a small depression. It is designed to temporarily hold and soak in rainwater runoff that flows from roofs, driveways, patios or lawns.
- ❑ **Connect fragmented bee habitat with "greenways."** Curb strips, tree strips, street margins and even drainage channels can be a place for long strips of vegetation and provide bees pathways to food sources and between hives.
- ❑ **Convert a wall or roof into a bee oasis.** Adding a garden to a rooftop or adding hanging or climbing plants to a wall can multiply space for bees to rest, feed and find a home.
- ❑ **Eliminate pesticide use whenever possible.** The chemicals used to deter insect pests and kill weeds can also be harmful to beneficial insects and pollinators. Visiting pollinators will be safer and more likely to return frequently, thanks to a healthier environment and fewer chemical threats.



Take a bee walk in your community to watch pollinators at work and take simple steps to save the bees. Learn more at:

<http://environmentamerica.org/beewalk>

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