

## Bee-Friendly Tips for Growers

- Select low maintenance plants, especially drought tolerant natives, and avoid invasive species
- Set mower height to allow for bee food plants, such as clover and dandelions
- Apply all insecticides and fungicides after sundown when pollinators are less active, and avoid spraying during bloom
- Check all pesticide labels for toxicity to bees and eliminate chemicals with extended residual toxicity
- Leave some areas mulch-free, wild, and undisturbed to provide habitat for ground nesting bees

Visit [www.pollinator.org/brochures.htm](http://www.pollinator.org/brochures.htm) to order copies of this brochure.

Bee Friendly Farming (BFF) is a Pollinator Partnership (P2) program that works with farmers and beekeepers to improve the health of honey bees and support native pollinators.

BFF is beneficial to farmers, beekeepers, and all those that enjoy the bountiful foods that bees support. Learn more and donate at <http://pollinator.org/bff>.

The North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) is a collaborative body of over 140 organizations that work for the protection of pollinators across Mexico, Canada and the United States.

The NAPPC Bee Friendly Farming Task Force produced this brochure for your use and information. Feedback is welcome. For more information please contact [info@pollinator.org](mailto:info@pollinator.org) or 415-362-1137 or visit [www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org)



# Bee Friendly Farming

## A Program to Benefit Farmers and Bees

Prepared by the Bee Friendly Farming Task Force of the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC)



Photo by: Derrick Ditchburn



“We manage our organic vegetable farm as an ecosystem. Our main crop is biodiversity. Pollinating insects form a vital strand in this dynamic, living food web. The integrity of this food web cannot be maintained unless the health and well-being of these insects are encouraged, through planting and cropping practices and habitat management”

ANTONY JOHN, BEE FRIENDLY FARMER,  
SOILED REPUTATION,  
SEBRINGVILLE ONTARIO





## Introduction

As a good steward for sustainable agricultural practices, you should be recognized for your efforts and have the tools to continue your work, influencing others to follow your example. The Bee Friendly Farming (BFF) program works with farmers and beekeepers to improve the health of honey bees, while fostering awareness and support for native pollinators.

When you certify your farm, ranch, orchard, or vineyard with the BFF program, you receive recognition and consumer support. Commercial beekeepers also benefit from bee-friendly plantings on fallow lands, which allow them to avoid trucking bees long distances in search of pasture.



## The Importance of Bee Friendly Farming

Bees may be small, but they are critically important to the sustainability of agriculture and ecosystems. Unfortunately, most agricultural landscapes do not provide sufficient or balanced bee habitat. Intensive cultivation has eliminated plants that pollinators need.

Farmers and beekeepers play a key role in the health and survival of pollinators. Sustainable farming promotes healthy populations of bees, native pollinators, and other beneficial insects. **It really is a win-win!**



Visit [www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org) or [www.nappc.org](http://www.nappc.org) for more information.

## How to Become a Bee Friendly Farmer

Certification requires you to:

1. Offer forage providing good nutrition for bees on at least 3% of your landscape
2. Plant continuous bloom of different flowering plants throughout the growing season, especially in early spring and late autumn in temperate regions
3. Offer clean water for bees. For example, a shallow bowl filled with marbles or stones and water.
4. Provide a variety of habitats for nesting and mating, through features such as hedgerows, natural brush, or bufferstrips
5. Practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM); reduce or eliminate the use of chemicals; ensure that pollinators are not exposed
6. Pay the annual \$35 certification fee, which helps sustain the program



## Get Mapped

Once qualified, your location is pinned on the BFF map, and you are then able to use the BFF logo to indicate that your products or services are produced on lands that promote pollinator health. The BFF program offers signs, stickers and bookmarks to help raise public awareness and promote your bee-friendly efforts. Once certified, visit <http://pollinator.org/bff#store> to get your BFF materials!

