



Like all living organisms, bees have their place in our ecosystems, and they have a vital role to play. Without the humble bee's assistance in growing the beautiful berries, fruit, and healthy vegetables we love, we would lose a large chunk of the crops we take for granted.

In New Zealand, we often hear about the decline in honey bee numbers. Sadly, bees are under attack because of threats such as the varroa mite, which, if an infestation occurs, can wipe out whole hives. Bees are also affected by toxic garden sprays and a lack of natural habitat. Honey bees need pollen and nectar to survive, which is why we challenge you to make your garden a honey bee paradise.

Time to get planning! Here is a list of flowers loved by bees.

Annual Flowers

Antirrhinum, alyssum, calendula, chrysanthemum, cosmos, marigolds, nasturtiums, poppies, rudbeckia, salvia, sunflowers, verbena, zinnia, Queen Anne's lace. Although it's also a weed, bees love clover when in flower.

Shrubs

Buddleia, ceanothus, clematis, echium, escallonia, euphorbia, flaxes (phormiums), fuchsia, hebes, lavender, manuka (Leptospermum), old fashioned roses, flowering cherries (prunus) and rosemary.

Perennials

Aquilegia, cornflower, dahlia, daisies, echinacea, echinops, eryngium, foxgloves, gaillardia, gaura, geraniums, hollyhock, 'lamb's ear (stachys), penstemon, bog sage, and scabiosa.

Herbs, Fruit & Vegetables

Blackberries, borage, catmint/catnip (Nepeta cataria), cucurbits and citrus. Allow your herbs to flower such as coriander, comfrey, hyssop, monarda (bergamot), rosemary, sage, oregano and thyme.

Tips

- Bees love water to cool down their hive, make a bee bath and put it in a safe area, making sure you add a few stones so visiting bees won't drown.
- Make sure you mass plant the same flowers. Bees will work on one spot for at least ten hours and collect from the same flower/colour type.
- Be bee aware: who would have thought that some organic garden insecticides are very toxic to bees. Ask us in-store about our safer sprays and how to use them correctly.
- Look for our safe bee icon in-store when you shop for weed and insecticide sprays to know it's safe.



So, jump on board the bee-friendly garden wagon and help to ensure the survival of bees.





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