

## WHY ARE BEES IMPORTANT?

Imagine a world without strawberries, kiwifruit, apples, nuts, coffee, chocolate or even denim jeans! And that's only the beginning.

One mouthful in three and nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the diversity of our daily food is directly attributed to Bee pollination. Billions of dollars in NZ export earnings depend on bee pollination. And so do many plants in your garden.

## WHAT IS HAPPENING TO OUR BEES?

Honey bees all around the world are in decline because of Varroa mite infestations and other threats. Pesticide misuse is killing bees. Habitat degradation takes away flowers which supply nectar and pollen, their essential food. Bees are now dependent on humans to protect them.

## Bees Need Your Help Now

### WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT? BEE FRIENDLY!

- ✓ Do not spray when plants are in flower or bees are present. Spray early morning or at sunset.
- ✓ Provide fresh pesticide-free drinking water for bees.
- ✓ Plant good nectar and pollen sources in your garden to nourish bees.

“

**BEES in NZ  
cannot survive  
without our help  
and  
we cannot survive  
without the BEES**

”

## Create A Backyard Buzz

For more information ask your local garden centre or visit us at [www.nba.org.nz](http://www.nba.org.nz)  
or [www.treesforbeesnz.org](http://www.treesforbeesnz.org)  
or contact [treesforbeesnz@gmail.com](mailto:treesforbeesnz@gmail.com)

A joint project of the National Beekeepers' Association and Trees for Bees NZ



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# Urban Trees for Bees



Front Cover Photo by Niel Fitzgerald ©Landcare Research

## URBAN TREES FOR BEES PLANTING FOR BEES IN YOUR GARDEN

- ✓ **Plant in generous clusters of the same species for wow factor and Bee Appeal**  
Large clusters of each species will attract bees into your garden
- ✓ **Plant flowers for each season**  
A steady source of nectar and pollen all year round sustains bees
- ✓ **Do not plant prohibited or controlled weeds**

If in doubt check it out at the National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) [www.biosecurity.govt.nz/nppa](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/nppa) and your regional Council website  
For example for Auckland area contact Auckland Regional Council  
Ph: 09 366 2000 or 0800 80 60 40  
[info@arc.govt.nz](mailto:info@arc.govt.nz)  
[www.arc.govt.nz](http://www.arc.govt.nz)

Honey bees pollinating squash flower  
Photo by Remco Baars  
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## BEE-FRIENDLY KITCHEN AND HERB PLANT SUGGESTIONS

### Herbaceous

- Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*)
- Chives (*Allium schoenoprasum*)
- Cucumber, melon (*Cucumis* spp.)
- Echinacea (*Echinacea purpurea*)
- Pot marigold (*Calendula officinalis*)
- Sage (*Salvia officinalis*)
- Squash, pumpkin (*Cucurbita* spp.)
- Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*)
- Sweet corn (*Zea mays*)

### Trees, shrubs and climbers

- Apple (*Malus* spp.)
- Bay laurel (*Laurus nobilis*)
- Kiwifruit (*Actinidia deliciosa*)
- Lavender (*Lavandula* spp.)
- Lemon, orange, grapefruit (*Citrus* spp.)
- Pear (*Pyrus* spp.)
- Plum, peach (*Prunus* spp.)
- Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*)

### Be sure to select cultivars that attract bees:

- Select “single” flowers not “doubles” or “triples”
- Choose simple traditional flowers not highly modified flowers
- Garden catalogues often mark which cultivars attract bees

## BEE-FRIENDLY ORNAMENTAL FLOWER PLANT SUGGESTIONS

### Herbaceous

- Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*)
- Cornflower (*Centaurea* spp.)
- Hollyhock (*Alcea* spp.)
- Michaelmas daisy (*Aster novae-angliae*)
- Phacelia (*Phacelia tanacetifolia*)
- Penstemon (*Penstemon* spp.)
- Salvia (*Salvia* spp.)
- Sweet alyssum (*Lobularia maritima*)
- Zinnia (*Zinnia* spp.)

### Trees, shrubs and climbers

- Australian gum (*Eucalyptus* spp.)
- Bottlebrush (*Callistemon* spp.)
- Cabbage tree (*Cordyline australis*)\*
- Harakeke, NZ Flax (*Phormium tenax*)\*
- Koromiko (*Hebe* spp., e.g., *H. macrocarpa*)\*
- Lemonwood, koru (*Pittosporum* spp.)\*
- NZ jasmine (*Parsonsia heterophylla*)\*
- NZ Lacebark (*Hoheria populnea*)\*
- Pohutukawa, rata (*Metrosideros* spp.)\*
- Rewarewa (*Knightia excelsa*)\*
- Tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)
- Wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*)

\* indicates NZ native plant species; spp. = species