



# We Need Bees!

Learn why bees are important to agriculture and how we can help them to survive.



Have you ever been stung by a bee? It hurts! For this reason, many people don't want bees to be around them. But bees are very important to agriculture and the environment. Bees help to pollinate flowers. Without pollination, we would not have many of the nuts, fruits, and vegetables that we enjoy eating.

The number of bees in Maryland is declining due to habitat loss, disease, and misuse of pesticides. This is bad news because we need bees! What can we do?

- We can limit the use of pesticides in our yards. Pesticides meant for garden pests like mosquitos and flies can also kill bees and butterflies.
- We can plant flowers to feed the bees.
- We can change the way we feel about bees. We need bees!



Recommended Ag Literature:  
*The Thing About Bees*  
By Shabazz Larkin

To watch the video  
*Why are Honeybees Important?*  
click [here](https://tinyurl.com/274sbqhz).  
<https://tinyurl.com/274sbqhz>

To read about common  
Maryland bees  
click [here](https://tinyurl.com/x3fesw29).  
<https://tinyurl.com/x3fesw29>

To watch the video  
*How to Make a Bee Cafe*  
click [here](https://tinyurl.com/227jjnr3).  
<https://tinyurl.com/227jjnr3>

## Make a Bee Café

Help bees by creating a place for them to find nectar.

### You will need:

- a pot filled with soil or a spot in the garden
- plants that attract bees

### Tips for Attracting Bees:

- Bees are attracted to blue, purple, and yellow flowers.
- Bees like flowers with a daisy shape.
- Bees like flowers with a single row of petals.  
(A single row of petals makes getting nectar easier.)
- Bees need water. Use a small saucer or some bottle caps to hold water.



### Note:

You can find seed mixes that grow "bee friendly" plants. It can be very rewarding to grow plants from seed, but it takes time and patience!

