

Make Your Own Bee Friendly Garden

An at-home, outdoor activity that is helpful for our friends, the bees! Be sure to get assistance from an adult. Provided by Gumbo Limbo education staff.

Purpose: To create a bee friendly space in your own yard.

Bees:

The term “bee” is a very general term. In fact, there are about 200,000 different species of bees around the world! The United States has about 40,000 species itself. The bees we are most familiar with are bumble bees and honeybees. These little critters are extra important because they are **pollinators**. Pollinators are animals that move a plants **pollen** from flower to flower which helps for new plants to be made. Unfortunately, due to habitat destruction, use of pesticides, disease, climate change, and other reasons, many species of bee populations are in decline. Bees help pollinate many of the plants we eat—if there were no more bees, many of our crops would not be able to grow! That could mean no more foods like apples, blueberries, almonds, beans, carrots, grapes, mangoes, strawberries, vanilla, and more. If that sounds a little scary, you may want to help our very important friends and make their lives a little easier. This activity will help you do so!

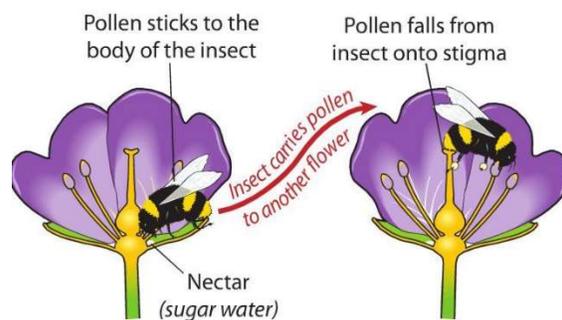


Picture 1: Honeybee



Picture 2: Bumble bee

Insect pollination



Activity:

1. Do some research and find what plants bees love and are **native** to where you live. This means plants that naturally grow in a given area. Some Florida examples include: the manyflower beardtongue, the giant ironweed, the crimson-eyed rosemallow, and many more!



2. Ask an adult to go with you and do some plant shopping!
3. Start gardening!
4. Don't forget to include a water station for the bees too!
 - a. Find a shallow bowl or lid of some sort
 - b. Add plenty of rocks or marbles (this keeps the bees from drowning)
 - c. Add water



5. And you're done! Now carefully observe your new bee friendly garden! Can you count how many bees you have helped?

Resources: To help you and your research in finding what plants are native to your state:

https://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/pollinator-friendly-plant-lists?field_state_target_id=63