

Bee Friendly: Natural Solutions for Happy Pollinators



The Problem

The honeybee population has been reduced by 50% in a single decade – from 5 million to 2.5 million bees worldwide.



The Monarch butterfly, another pollinating insect, has been reduced by a whopping 90%

The Cause

A class of pesticides called neonicotinoids (neonics), developed in the 1980s and 1990s, is a leading driver of the global bee decline.

Glyphosate (RoundUp) – declared a possible carcinogen by the WHO – is harmful to a host of insects and animals, and linked to the decline of pollinating Monarch butterflies.

Why it Matters to Us Right Now

-  Every third bite of food in America is pollinated by honeybees
-  The problem will become worse since the part of our food supply dependent on pollinators has grown by 300%

The Solutions

First, avoid using neonicotinoid insecticides in your yard.

-  Look for labels containing:
- Imidacloprid
 - Acetamiprid
 - Clothianidin
 - Dinotefuran
 - Nithiazine
 - Thiacloprid
 - Thiamethoxam

And avoid Glyphosate (trade name “RoundUp”)

Second, re-orient *how* to rid your yard of unwanted weeds and insects, so you never have to actually use pesticides.

- Introduce native plants to attract ladybugs, praying mantises, dragonflies and carnivorous beetles to keep harmful pests in check.
- Make your lawn naturally resistant to insects and weeds. Check the pH level and soil balance. For example, dandelions will thrive if the pH is too high and clover will thrive if your lawn is nitrogen poor.
- Hand-pull weeds and fill empty patches with grass seed so new weeds cannot take hold.

Third, use natural remedies to target unwanted weeds or pests.

Some examples:

- Soap spray
- Neem Oil spray
- Epsom salt spray
- Vinegar-water solution
- Corn gluten products
- Rabbit and Groundhog Out products

