

## HELP THE BEES!

Bees are in trouble, but you can help!!!

Weeds - clover and dandelions, for example - can be good for the bees! Stop spraying pesticides, herbicides, or other chemicals in the the garden!

Plant bee-friendly flowers and flowering shrubs, herbs, fruits and vegetables, and trees. Some of the good bee-attractors for western NC: American holly \* asters \* basswood \* bee balm \* blackberries \* black locust \* blueberry \* borage \* buttercups \* butterfly bush \* calliopsis \* cantaloupe \* catnip \* cilantro \* cosmos \* cucumbers \* echinacea \* fennel \* foxglove \* gourds \* holly \* hollyhocks \* honeysuckle \* lavender \* maples \* marigolds \* mints \* mountain ash \* poplar \* poppies \* raspberries \* rosemary \* roses \* sage \* sedum \* sourwood \* squash \* strawberries \* sumac \* sunflowers \* thyme \* tulip tree \* watermelons \* wild garlic \* willows \* zinnias. (WARNING: in a recent study, more than half of ostensibly bee-friendly plants sampled at 18 Home Depot, Lowe's, and Walmart garden centers in the U.S. and Canada contained high levels of neonicotinoids, considered highly toxic to bees, butterflies, and other insect pollinators).

Provide a fresh water source, like a bird bath with stones for bees to crawl on.

Buy local honey and local, organic food from beekeepers and farmers you know.

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