



LOVE OUR KIWI BEES

Why do bees need our help?

We can't survive without bees and bees can't survive without us. Your garden depends on bees; without them there would be no fruit, flowers, herbs, vegetables or other crops.

New Zealand bees are doing better than in many other countries; let's work together to save them before it's too late. Without bees we would lose 2/3 of our food.

Bees are already struggling to cope with the varroa mite. Now they are being threatened by pesticides and a decline in sources of pollen and nectar.



What can you do to help?

Many common garden chemicals can harm bees. Sprays and coated seeds containing neonicotinoids may be harming our bees. Try to avoid using any sprays in your garden at all. Especially avoid insecticides – they are designed to kill insects and therefore can kill bees. If you can't avoid using insecticides, try to avoid using systemic insecticides which cause chemicals to flow into the sap of plants.

Check the labels before you buy a gardening product.

Products that contain the following can harm bees:

- acetamprid
- imidacloprid
- thiacloprid
- thiamethoxam

If you have to spray:

Spray carefully – spray in the late evening with bee friendly sprays after bees have gone to bed. Don't spray while plants are flowering. Don't spray insecticides for a fortnight before flowering. Avoid spraying plants that bees are feeding on.

Other ways you can help bees in your garden

Plant bee friendly trees and plants like fruit trees and old fashioned or heirloom flowers and herbs. Provide water – place pebbles or twigs in a saucer of water so the bees have something to stand on and drink. Protect swarms – if you see a swarm of bees (in a tree or on your house for example) contact a local beekeeper. For a list of beekeepers see www.nba.org.nz/contact-us/bee-swarm-collection

You can get more information on how to help bees at

www.nba.org.nz

