



Why All the Buzz About Bees?

- ❁ Bees are diverse and cool!
- ❁ Bees are essential to the maintenance of properly functioning ecosystems.
- ❁ Aside from helping wild plant reproduction, both managed honey bees and unmanaged wild bees uphold Canadian agriculture in a big way.
- ❁ Bee losses in Canada are growing, which has brought public attention to bee-issues.
- ❁ However, these invaluable insects are rarely considered during residential development and agricultural expansion processes.



Engage with Bees in your area

- ❁ Help maintain **pollinator patches** where possible.
- ❁ **Monitor** bees in your area by taking photos of them and sending them for identification on-line.
- ❁ **Support pollinators** by participating in a community garden which cares about growing food in a way which is beneficial for both insects and people.



The Bee Issue

Bee Issues:

- ❁ People are scared of bees yet do not know much about them: most bees do not sting, do not produce honey and do not live in a hive!
- ❁ The number of beekeepers is decreasing and larger operations are becoming the norm.
- ❁ Lawns, urban-sprawl and growing monocultures fragment bee habitats that provide appropriate forage and nesting conditions.
- ❁ The over-intensive use of agrochemicals and gardening sprays has been normalized. These contaminants enter our water, air and soil. When combined, their toxicity to humans and other animals increases.

Everyone is a Beekeeper!

Everyone affects their environment. Directly, indirectly and collectively, we all play a role in shaping bee-health.

This should not be taken as an accusation however, but rather as a reminder that **WE DO HAVE THE POWER** to better the Human-Bee relationship. Play your part in it!

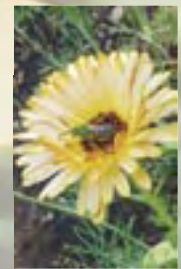
In Ontario, we are privileged to have over 400 types of bees, by learning about how we interact with them, we can begin to improve our relationship.

What We Can Do About It!

- ❁ Rehabilitate the landscape: collect seeds from plants in natural, unsprayed areas, plant them in run-down patches.
- ❁ Let the dandelions and weeds stay longer on your lawn, particularly in early spring and early fall.
- ❁ Completely avoid spraying chemicals on anything outside (your body will thank you too).
- ❁ Plant a pesticide-free garden where there was previously lawn.
- ❁ Choose older plant varieties.

The
Bee
Issue

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Agapostemon bee
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