



# Bee Pollinator Facts

Interesting things about bees and pollinators

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20,000 bee species on the planet.

70% live underground.

1 in 4 species at risk of extinction.

Honey bees never sleep.

One bee will make only 1/2 teaspoon of honey in his life.

Bees get all their food and nutrients from flowers.

Pollination is nature's way of speed dating.

Bees can travel 500 miles in one lifetime.

Air pollution causes a more than 30% reduction in pollinator performance.

More than 75% of the food we eat depends on pollinators.

While the most common pollinator is the bee, plants are also pollinated by ants, bats, beetles, butterflies, flies, moths, and wasps.

Honey bees are the only insect that produces food consumed by humans.

Bees pollinate more than 150 commercial crops. Through agricultural pollination, bees contribute nearly \$20 billion to the U.S. economy, and account for as much as \$577 billion globally.

Honey is antibacterial, antimicrobial, and anti-inflammatory; it can be used to help treat wounds.

Honey is a natural humectant and emollient.



Plant a range of flowers in your garden so bees have access to nectar from March to October. Bees love traditional cottage garden flowers and native wildflowers, like primrose, foxglove, and marigolds.

If you find a bumblebee which appears to be struggling, it may be that it is just resting, particularly if the bee is a queen in early spring. If you think the bee is struggling the best thing to do is gently put the bee onto a bee-friendly flower. If there are no bee-friendly flowers around, mix 50/50 white sugar and water to give the bumblebee a one-off energy boost, providing the carbohydrates it needs to fly. Simply offer a drop or two of sugar water up to the front end of the bee on a teaspoon or an upturned drinks cap in a sheltered place and allow the bee time to recuperate.



### **How can we save natural pollinators from extinction?**

Plant wildflowers instead of barren lawns, covering rooftops with useful greenery, and protecting parkland and small undeveloped niches of cities.

Avoid pesticide use.



