

Tips For Transforming Your Large Yard Into A Bee-Friendly Garden



There are thousands of different kinds of bees around the world, but many of these species are facing alarming population declines. As much as some people may see bees as a nuisance, they are an essential piece of the puzzle when it comes to food crops and flowers. The reasons for the declines are complex, but those who garden in their backyard can take steps to counter the issues.

Bees are valuable pollinators around the world.

The Humane Society explains that bees are essential not only to family gardens, but to [farms too](#). Approximately 50 percent of the plant species found around the world rely on pollination from animals, particularly bees. In fact, around 100 crops just in the United States need pollination. Native bee populations are declining for a variety of reasons, including habitat damage and poisoning from herbicides and pesticides.

If you are looking for ways to counteract these environmental issues, and have a lot of space in your yard, you can make bee-friendly gardening choices that have a significant impact. In planning your bee sanctuary, The Honeybee Conservancy suggests choosing [native wildflowers](#), flowering vegetables, berries, and flowering herbs.

Plant a variety of native choices in large groups.

Focus on native varieties over hybrid, cultivated, or engineered choices to attract bees to your yard. Native plants are a better fit for pollinators and there are plenty of options available. The

Xerces Society shares some suggestions [based on your region](#), such as using wild geranium in the Midwest and planting black-eyed Susan in the Southeast.

Plant a variety that provides successive blooms across as much of the year as possible. Group the same plants together in large sections, but incorporate a variety of types in your garden. Researchers have determined that having 10 or more different species of [bee-friendly plants](#) is best if you can put together a large garden.

Don't forget bee-friendly trees and shrubs and aim for low-maintenance, year-round choices

Incorporate trees, shrubs, and grasses that are bee-friendly too. Cherry, crabapple, Southern magnolia, and redbud trees do a great job of attracting bees, and shrubs like elderberry, lavender, and heather work well too. Take a low-maintenance approach to your yard by letting grass grow longer than typically and embracing weeds that bees like such as dandelion and clover.

Let your flowering herb and vegetable plants [go to flower](#) and leave those there until the flowers are gone. This gives bees additional resources during times of the year when they may otherwise struggle. Vegetables like squash, beans, peas, and cucumber are great choices, as are herbs such as dill, oregano, rosemary, and coriander. In terms of fruits, berries of all types, apples, and melon attract bees too.

Be diligent in avoiding pesticides and herbicides.

Be cautious about where you purchase your plants. You want to avoid using pesticides and herbicides on your garden, and you also need to ensure that anything you purchase from big-box gardening retailers provide pesticide-free plants too. Neonicotinoids are believed to be particularly harmful to bees, butterflies, and other pollinators, so be especially careful to avoid these.

Consider ways you can make your large yard attractive to struggling bee populations. Utilize native flowering plants and add bee-friendly vegetables, trees, and shrubs. Incorporate a variety of options, but plant big sections of like flowers together. Avoid herbicides and pesticides and aim to keep different things blossoming throughout the year. A bit of planning as you [create your garden](#) can have a significant impact on helping the bee population during this critical time.

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