



Bee & Bee

CREATE YOUR OWN BED AND BREAKFAST FOR BUMBLE BEES

BECAUSE WE NEED THE BEES AND THE BEES NEED US!

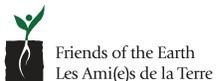
Help bumble bees by creating a bed & breakfast accommodation for some of Canada's 40 species of bumble bees. You'll find they, in turn, will help you with better results in your garden. Better still, once you find bumble bees visiting your Bee & Bee, join in the Great Canadian Bumble Bee Count to help scientists learn about your bumble bee visitors.

3 THINGS TO CREATE A BEE & BEE

-  Food that is pesticide free
-  Accomodation / habitat
-  Outreach - put up a Bee & Bee sign

JOIN THE GREAT CANADIAN BUMBLE BEE COUNT

www.foecanada.org/en/the-bee-cause



"LET IT BEE" MAINTENANCE TIPS FOR YOUR BEE & BEE



AVOID PESTICIDES

Pesticides are toxic to bumble bees and other pollinators. Alternative approaches for pest problems in strategic areas should be explored (e.g., fatty acid soaps; biological oils and herbal repellents).



STOP SPRINKLER IRRIGATION

Bees are able to perceive imminent rain and will seek protection in their nests. Sprinkler irrigation offers no such warning cues and can alter visual landmarks and entrances to nests. For large areas, use trickle or drip irrigation or avoid irrigation during daylight hours by irrigating at night when bees are in their nests.



DON'T USE BURIED OR SURFACE WEED BARRIER FABRIC

Impervious surfaces inhibit overwintering and ground nesting sites not just for bees but other beneficial insects and compact soils.



LIMIT MULCHING

Mulching to conserve water and inhibit weeds can also make the ground impenetrable to bumble bees. Leave some areas of your garden mulch free.



STOP FERTILIZING

Native plants do not need it, and fertilizing only encourages weeds and invasive species.



STOP EXCESSIVE SITE CLEAN-UP

If leaf litter, deadwood and brush are cleaned up and bottoms of hedges excessively pruned, nesting and overwintering sites could be impacted. Due to prevailing cultural expectations of tidiness, consider putting up a Bee & Bee sign that explains to your neighbours you are protecting bumble bees.



DON'T MOW SO LOW

Mow lawns with a high blade setting to allow violets and clover to flourish.

THREE THINGS YOU NEED TO CREATE YOUR BEE & BEE



FOOD THAT IS PESTICIDE FREE

Plant at least three bumble bee friendly native plants so there will always be nectar and pollen free rich foraging plants for each season - spring, summer, fall.

Select different flower shapes heights and colours. Bumble bees like white, yellow, blue and purple.

Choose native plants, since they require little water and no fertilizers or pesticides.

Try to purchase seed from local growers because locally sourced plants are adapted to the area.

Plant in clumps but make each clump the same native plants; this makes it easier for bumble bees to find them.

Make sure the plants are free of neonicotinoids and other pesticides.

Include at least one native bunch grass or sedge to provide bumble bee nesting and overwinter sites.



ACCOMODATION/HABITAT YEAR-ROUND

Create nesting site landscape features that provide dry cavities for new nests. Cavities in trees, abandoned rodent nests in the ground, under tufts of grass, crevices in rock piles or walls, and under leaf litter, brush and fallen logs all make good Bee & Bees.

Well drained, level or slightly sloped sites that get full sun and have good air circulation attract bumble bees.

Plant early spring food sources nearby. The closer nesting and overwintering sites can be to foraging plants, the easier it will be for bumble bees to service and get established.

Make sure overwintering and nesting sites will be free from disturbances to the ground such as recreational activity, movement of equipment, tilling, planting and mowing.

To reduce the potential of getting stung, make sure that any nesting areas are located away from major areas of human activity. Some bumble bees can get defensive of their nests.



OUTREACH - PUT UP A BEE & BEE SIGN

Creating a Bee & Bee calls for changes to past gardening practices that clean out all plant matter every season.

Put up a sign and tell your neighbours and friends that you've created a Bee & Bee to help bumble bees. This will help them understand why your garden may look different.

You can download a sign from Friends of the Earth and waterproof it with a plastic covering or make your own Bee & Bee sign.

Send Friends of the Earth a picture of you and your Bee & Bee! Take your Bee & Bee photo from the same view before, during and after you've planted and then once for each of the seasons.



SHARE YOUR PHOTOS!

Facebook: [foe.canada](https://www.facebook.com/foe.canada)

Twitter: [@FoE_Canada](https://twitter.com/FoE_Canada)

Instagram: [@FoE_Canada](https://www.instagram.com/FoE_Canada)

GREAT CANADIAN BUMBLE BEE COUNT

Every summer, Friends of the Earth Great launches the Great Canadian Bumble Bee Count, a citizen science campaign in collaboration with [bumblebeewatch.org](https://www.bumblebeewatch.org). Just like government needs a census to know what's happening with its citizens, their homes, families and jobs, we think bumble bees need their own census. Not enough is known about wild, native bees in Canada. Bumble bees are iconic, friendly, beautiful and productive creatures. They deserve our protection.



JULY 1, 2018



AUGUST 31, 2018



Sign up for our e-newsletter at www.foecanada.org to get the latest campaign news.