

## Do It Yourself Guide To Saving The Bees



### Let the Ground Rest

Most of the 800 bee species in Canada nest in the ground. It's important to leave the soil alone as much as possible, especially from fall to early spring when bees such as bumble bees are nesting in the ground. When we disturb the soil, it is very possible that we are wiping out an entire generation of bees! If you're feeling extra pollinator friendly, consider leaving your leaves as this is fantastic habitat for pollinators, and is beneficial for the soil as it breaks down.

### Plant Flowers Made for Pollinators

When planning your garden, look in to planting flowers that are recommended for bees and other pollinators. Sometimes plants are popular because they have lots of petals, but they may have less pollen and nectar for pollinators! When planting your garden plant with seeds or plants that are non-GMO, organic, pesticide free, and flowers that are open with lots of pollen and nectar for pollinators.

### Weeds are Friends and Food

Many of the plants we consider weeds are indigenous to the lands we live on, and can even be eaten! Weeds are often found in the cooler months and in places where other things are typically not growing, therefore providing important food sources to bees. Okay, so you may not want to eat dandelions (but you should!) or grow them in your yard, but if really need to get rid of your weeds, please try and remove them by hand or with something such as vinegar that will help keep pollinators safe.

### Make a Bee Bath

You read that right! Bees don't need soap or bubble bath, but they do need water just like us, especially in the heat of summer! When making a bath for bees (more specifically honeybees), it's important to have rocks, corks, or sticks that bees can rest on while drinking. This is crucial because bees breathe through their abdomen, so without somewhere safe to rest bees can drown. Bee smart and don't make that bee bath a death trap.