

Protect habitats

Leave the leaves.

Don't leave Oregon's native bees out in the cold! In the fall, bumblebee colonies and solitary native bees seek out warm, dry places to nest. Many native bees rely on fallen leaves to provide a safe place to hibernate during the winter.

Turn your yard or garden into a safe haven for bees by skipping the rake or leaf blower this year - leave the leaves where they fall to preserve valuable habitat for overwintering native bees.

Or, gather leaf litter into garden beds and around the bases of trees to balance aesthetics with pollinator protection.

Clear bare ground for miner bees.

Did you know that 70% of bee species hibernate underground? You can clear patches of bare ground in your yard or garden for burrowing species like miner bees to nest in. Be sure to clearly mark these areas, particularly if you notice bee nests, and avoid disturbing them until bees emerge in the spring.

Make bee houses.

Many types of bees are cavity-nesters. These bee species require narrow tubes made of organic material in which to shelter. They are often found inside trees or the stems of woody plants.

But due to habitat loss, these nesting places are becoming harder for bees to find. You can make or buy wooden bee houses for a variety of species to keep them safe over the winter.

Save yard waste, particularly long stems and branches with hollow or pithy cores, and bundle them in your yard so bees can take up residence in the winter.

Plant bee-friendly

Extend your garden's season.

In wildflower ecosystems, species bloom at different times throughout the season so that bees have an ongoing supply of food during the year. You can choose plants that mimic this blooming cycle in your own garden. Hardy winter plants also protect your garden beds in the colder months.

What to plant	Blooming season
Goldenrod	June - October
Heather*	December - April
Red currant	January - July
Oregon grape	February - May
Willow	February - June
Phacelia (Bee's Friend)	March - June

**Non-native*



Take action.

You can have a powerful voice in saving the bees not only in your backyard but all across Oregon. Twelve other states including Washington and California have already passed laws restricting residential uses of neonics.

Visit EnvironmentOregon.org to add your signature to the petition and tell your state legislators that you want bee-killing pesticides off store shelves.

Pesticide guide

Avoid neonics.

A widely used class of pesticides called neonicotinoids (neonics) is especially toxic to bees. Neonics can be found in products at your local grocery store or garden center.

It's safest to limit your use of chemical pesticides as much as possible, but if you must buy them, read the labels carefully and look out for these bee-killing ingredients.

- Thiamethoxam
- Acetamiprid
- Clothianidin
- Dinotefuran
- Imidacloprid



Use eco-friendly alternatives.

Eco-friendly pest management solutions can keep your garden thriving without harming the bees. Here are some bee-friendly ways to prevent garden pests.

- Beneficial insects. Ladybugs, lacewings, and some beetles can be a welcome presence in your garden and keep common pests at bay.
- Diatomaceous earth. A sandy white powder useful for discouraging insects. Mix it into your soil or dust it directly onto your plants.
- Cultural practices. Good garden management strategies like companion planting and regular crop rotation can keep unwanted bugs away.
- Neem oil (azadirachtin) and insecticidal soaps. Natural compounds are less toxic than chemical agents like neonics, but should still be used with caution. Apply them in the late evening to avoid contact with foraging bees.



Protect our pollinators

7 tips for bee-friendly fall gardening



Environment Oregon
EnvironmentOregon.org
1536 SE 11th Ave, Ste. B
Portland, OR, 97214
(303) 801-0581
info@EnvironmentOregon.org