Mission and Objectives

Mission:
To conserve and increase numbers of honey bees in Alabama

Objectives:
- Reduce bee fear thru education.
- Promote planting of bee friendly plants.
- Reduce impact of pesticide use on honey bees.
- Improve environmental conditions for honey bees.

Contact: ______________________
Bee Fear

Do you need to worry about bee stings?

Let's examine the facts:

- Bees rarely sting unless provoked.
- Leaving bees alone and not "swatting" at them is the best way to prevent stinging.
- A true allergy to bee stings is very rare.
- Yellow Jacket wasps are more likely to sting and often confused with honey bees.
- Bumblebees and solitary bees are the least likely to sting.
- You are more likely to be struck by lightning than to die of a bee sting!
- The average person can tolerate 10 stings per pound of body weight!

Unreasonable fear of bees can have a detrimental effect on ecology:

- Bees are important pollinators
- Wild colonies of bees contribute immensely to the pollination of native and wild plants which support the local ecosystem.
- A lack of support for local beekeepers can contribute to a lack of colonies for crop pollination.

There are 54 deaths per year attributed to bee stings
There are 90 deaths per year from lightning
There are 871 deaths per year from falls
There are 20,000 deaths per year from influenza
There are 43,354 deaths per year from motor vehicle accidents.

Don’t Bee Afraid!

Bee Plants

Herbaceous Plants:
- Bee Balm
- Purple Coneflower
- Black-eyed Susan
- Coreopsis species
- Aster species
- Goldenrod species
- Salvia species

Monarda punctate
Echinacea purpurea
Rudbeckia triloba
Coreopsis
Symphyotrichum
Solidago
Salvia (except red)

Shrubs and Woody Plants:
- Inkberry Holly
- Blueberry species
- Dwarf Fothergilla
- Virginia Sweetspire
- Sweetpepper Bush
- Yellow Anise
- American Beautyberry

Ilex glabra
Vaccinium
Fothergilla gardenii
Itea virginica
Clethra alnifolia
Illicium parviflorum
Calicarpa americana

Trees:
- Serviceberry
- Eastern Redbud
- Hawthorn species
- Crabapple
- Magnolia
- Sourwood
- Maple species

Amelanchier arboreum
Cercis canadensis
Crataegus
Malus angustifolia
Magnolia species
Oxydendrum arboreum
Acer

Bee Friendly Yard Practices

Realistically, it is almost impossible to maintain a completely pest free landscape, and a little damage from garden pests will not harm your plants. Additionally, most products used to control lawn and garden insects can’t distinguish between desirable and undesirable ones.

Easy Bee Friendly Yard Care practices:
- Consider alternatives to pesticides.
- Read and follow usage, disposal, and storage guidelines found on the product. THE LABEL IS THE LAW!
- Choose least toxic products first
- Spot treat whenever possible - there are lots of beneficial insects you want to keep around your lawn and garden.
- Learn more: www.aces.edu ANR-1088 “Protecting Honey Bees from Pesticides”

Formulation considerations:
- LEAST Hazardous to Honey Bees: Granules. These products are applied to the soil surface and are a size that bees can’t or won’t pick up.
- MOST Hazardous to Honey Bees: Dust and Microencapsulated. These products are similar in size and shape to pollen, stick to the Honey Bee’s hairs and are taken to the hive, affecting the colony.

Application considerations:
- Apply insecticides late evening when Honey Bees are not foraging.
- To maximize those you use, apply when rain is not in forecast and there is little or no wind.

Don’t Bee Afraid!

Just Plant It!

Bee Friendly!