

THE RIGHT TO BE(E)



WHY TO PLANT

Before organising the planting actions it will probably be useful to find out why we need to plant flowers for bees. Here you can read some facts about bees and the negative results of their disappearance.

10 interesting facts about bees:

1. Bees are found on every continent except Antarctica.
2. Bees beat their wings approximately 200 times a second.
3. Honey bee is the only insect that produces food eaten by human beings.
4. There are about 20000 species of bees.
5. Bees communicate with each other with the special “dance” language.
6. Bees do not die if they sting other insects or animals, for example, a cow.
7. When born, the honey bee doesn't know how to produce honey. The younger bees are taught by more experienced ones.
8. A worker bee produces 1/12th teaspoon of honey in her lifetime.
9. Bees are cold-blooded creatures but they generate heat by vibrating their bodies.
10. The ancestor of bees were wasps.

Value of bees

We all know the most obvious value of bees – they produce tasty honey. But they do a lot more than this. They pollinate about a third of all our food. Among which are fruit, vegetables and grains. Bees pollinate 1500 different crops worldwide and 70 percent of all flowering plants. Therefore natural ecosystems depend on them heavily as well. By pollinating crops bees contribute greatly to the economy.

How are bees doing now?

Not so well. It was difficult to miss headlines about the mysterious disappearance of bees. It got the name of “colony collapse disorder” which is characterized by large amounts of worker bees dying or abandoning the hives. This phenomena was observed in many European countries and North America.

What are the reasons?

Nobody knows exactly why this is happening but there are several possible causes considered by scientists:

- ~ malnutrition;
- ~ the use of neonicotinoids, insecticides used to protect plants from parasites;
- ~ Varroa mites, the parasite which feeds on the body of the bee and bee larva;
- ~ beekeeping practices, for example the use of antibiotics;
- ~ combination of several factors.

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What can we do?

- 🕒 Plant a bee-friendly garden
- 🕒 Start a honeybee hive
- 🕒 Support local beekeepers
- 🕒 Spread the word

Find out more:

[What is the value of bees?](#)

[More than Honey \(the movie\)](#)

[Bees infographic](#)

[Urban Bee Gardens](#)

[Wikipedia on bees](#)

[Colony collapse disorder](#)

[Fun facts on bees](#)