

# You can help Texas honey bees! Here's how...



Texas Bluebonnet



[www.thbea.com](http://www.thbea.com)

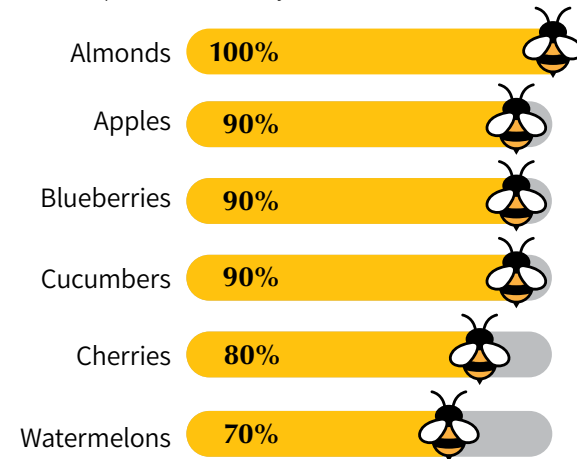
## Why do Texas honey bees need our help?

### Imagine a grey world without almonds, apples, or fragrant flowers...

Bees are at the heart of our food production chain. Often we think of the honey which bees produce, but even more valuable are their pollination services.

### Bees pollinate one-third of our food...

Honey bees contribute over \$15 billion each year to the value of US crops. Without honey bees we would lose:



Find out more at at [www.thbea.com/resources](http://www.thbea.com/resources)

### But honey bee numbers are not keeping pace...

Beekeepers report losing more than 40% of their hives each year. Beekeepers split their hives, but the total number of hives is only slowly increasing due to a number of negative interrelated factors:

- Loss of diversity in crop plantings
- Diseases and parasites, especially the varroa mite
- Flowerless landscapes with little forage
- Pesticides, herbicides, and other contaminants in the foraging environment

## Let's work together!

**Texas Honey Bee Education Association (THBEA)** is a non-profit controlled entity of **Texas Beekeepers Association (TBA)**, a 1500+ member organization of Texas beekeepers and industry suppliers.

Please support THBEA in its efforts to improve beekeeper, youth, and Texas citizen education regarding honey bees.

Donate at [www.thbea.com/donate](http://www.thbea.com/donate)

**Texas Honey Bee Education Association**  
400 County Road 440, Thrall TX 76578



Connect with **Texas Beekeepers Association** ([www.texasbeekeepers.org](http://www.texasbeekeepers.org)) to find local Texas Beekeepers Association Clubs and beekeepers who produce and market **Real Texas Honey** ([www.realtexashoney.com](http://www.realtexashoney.com)).



Indian Blanket

Bees are flower eaters. Nectar is their carbohydrate source, and pollen is their protein and fat source. When bees have access to good nutrition they provide us with good nutrition through their pollination services.



Texas Sage

## How to help Texas honey bees

### 1. Plant a honey bee-friendly flowering area

You don't need a ton of space to grow bee-friendly plants — plant on fence rows, in flower pots, in meadows, and across yards; plant at least 3 sq. ft. of each flowering plant. Allow dandelions and clover to grow in your grass, and pick plants that bloom from spring through fall. Visit [www.pollinator.org/guides](http://www.pollinator.org/guides) for plant suggestions in your area. Visit [www.texassuperstar.com](http://www.texassuperstar.com) for Texas tough and beautiful plants.

### 2. Plant trees for bees

Bees get most of their nectar from trees. When a tree blooms, it provides hundreds — if not thousands — of blossoms to feed from. Trees also provide resin bees use in the hive as an antimicrobial agent, a part of the honey bee health care system.

### 3. Use pesticides and herbicides sparingly

Pesticides and herbicides may be harmful to bees, causing them to become disoriented or less effective at their jobs in the hive. Don't spray plants in bloom. Practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM) on your garden and landscape. See your Texas county agricultural extension agent for more IPM suggestions.

### 4. Create a water source for bees

Bees utilize water during the summer to cool the hive and in winter to dilute stored honey. Fill a shallow bird bath or bowl with water and arrange pebbles and stones inside so that they break the water's surface to give bees places to land and drink. Don't let the bowl go dry or they will find another source.

### 5. Become a beekeeper or "adopt" a beehive

Learn to keep bees as a hobbyist or as a profession. Share your knowledge with gardeners and in schools

around Texas. THBEA's Adopt-a-Hive Program creates partnerships with local businesses to improve honey bee awareness. Find out more at [thbea.com/Adopt-a-Hive](http://thbea.com/Adopt-a-Hive).

### 6. Teach tomorrow's bee stewards

Inspire the next generation of beekeepers with guides, lessons, and activities to get them excited about bees! Educators can use Texas Beekeepers Association's collection of free resources at [www.texasbeekeepers.org/resources](http://www.texasbeekeepers.org/resources).

### 7. Host a honey bee fundraiser

Fundraise to help finance Texas Honey Bee Education Association activities. Host an event and invite a local beekeeper. You can find speakers at [texasbeekeepers.org/speakers-list](http://texasbeekeepers.org/speakers-list). Select THBEA on Amazon Smile or Ebay as your favored charity.

Purchase a "Love Honey Bees" license plate at [TxDMV.gov](http://TxDMV.gov); \$22 of your registration fee will go to support THBEA.



### 8. Support local beekeepers and organizations

Local beekeepers work hard to nurture their bees and the local community. Buy locally produced honey and products from their hives, including lotions and beeswax candles. Local honey is not only delicious, it is made from local flora. Find a local beekeeper association at [www.texasbeekeepers.org](http://www.texasbeekeepers.org).