

## BEES



We've all been hearing for years that the bee population is on the decline. So, what can we do as everyday gardeners to help? We've compiled a list of quick-tips to help turn your garden into a bee haven!

*B.Y.W.P.* meaning Blue, Yellow, White, and Purple. These are the four flower colors that are most attractive to our buzzing little friends. This is because bees perceive light differently than we do. The wavelength of the color red, for example, is too long for a bee to actually see. Stick with our acronym B.Y.W.P. if you want to please Her Highness Hymenoptera!

*SINGLE TO MINGLE.* When it comes to flower selections, single flowers contain more pollen and nectar for bees to enjoy. Being less densely packed with petals makes them more accessible for our bumble buddies. Examples of single flowers include Hibiscus, Black-eyed Susan, Monarda, Purple Cone Flower, Lilies and open-center Marigolds.. Be sure to look up which native varieties thrive in your region and give your bees access to the hottest singles in your area!

*HYDRATE OR DIE-DRATE*. Bees need water to keep on truckin', just like we do! Long hours in the sun require these hard-workers to stay hydrated. Setting up an accessible water source, like a Puddling Station, can give your bees the hydration they need!

*BEE KIND* to the buzz-babies by making sure they have safety in your space. This can be achieved through strategically leaving out brush and branches for them to use as shelter, using non-toxic pest controls, and even building or buying a bee box or starter bee hive. Bee-keeping has even been linked to health benefits. The calming rituals of caring for bees, as well as the ambient buzzing, have been known to help people struggling with anxiety, stress, and PTSD. It's a great illustration of reciprocity...

...IF YOU BEE KIND TO THEM.

THEY'LL BEE KIND TO YOU!