

Australia has 1,600 native bee species. Most of them are solitary and don't store honey. Only 11 species of social bees make and store small amounts of honey for their own food.



While it is well known that bees produce honey, a lesser known fact is that most of our other food sources also rely on bees, as **bees pollinate at least ONE mouthful in every THREE that we eat!** The production of most fruit, nuts, vegetables, seeds and even livestock feed are dependent on the existence of bees, including Australian native bees.

Due to bees being excellent pollinators they play a very important role in farming, food production and the health of our ecosystems.

Bees around the world, and in Australia, are in serious trouble. Overuse of pesticides and herbicides are causing bees to become more vulnerable to disease and pests. Modern agricultural practices and urbanisation are greatly reducing bee habitat and food.

LET'S HELP BEES.....

We can all do things to help ensure the survival of bees, such as:

- Plant 'bee friendly' plants in clumps in your garden and let the vegetables flower. Bees love lavender, rosemary, sage, thyme, perennial basil, borage, grevilleas, bottlebrush and tea trees whilst Eucalypts provide pollen and nectar for their food.
- Use no pesticides or herbicides in your garden. For 'bee friendly' pest management try companion planting.
- Before you buy, ask if plants have been treated with pesticides toxic to bees.
- Create 'bee friendly' garden signs for your front garden to advertise what a 'bee friendly' garden is.
- Put stones in bird baths to stop bees drowning.
- Buy fruit and vegetables that have been locally and sustainably grown.
- Buy local honey.

Information adapted by Little Green Steps WA from Cool Australia.org and Act for Bees. For more information, go to: actforbees.org.