

**Always use  
Garden Care Products  
as directed on the  
label and  
they will  
not harm  
bees**



 **Bee responsible**



**For further information and advice:**

British Beekeepers' Association  
[www.britishbee.org.uk](http://www.britishbee.org.uk)

Royal Horticultural Society  
[www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk)  
Visit this web site for specific advice on plants that  
support pollinating insects in gardens.

The Horticultural Trades Association  
[www.the-hta.org.uk](http://www.the-hta.org.uk)

Crop Protection Association  
[www.cropprotection.org.uk](http://www.cropprotection.org.uk)  
[www.garden-care.org.uk](http://www.garden-care.org.uk)

Why not adopt a bee hive!  
<http://www.adoptabeehive.co.uk>

Produced by Crop Protection Association,  
2 Swan Court,  
Cygnet Park,  
Hampton,  
Peterborough,  
PE7 8GX

Telephone: 01733 355370

 **Bee safe**

 **Bee informed**



**When using insecticides  
in your garden**



## What's happening to bees?

The contribution of honey bees and bumblebees to the maintenance of the British countryside is immeasurable. Although you may think of bees primarily as honey producers, their role as pollinators of both our crops and wildflowers make bees vitally important to each and every one of us – that's why it is crucial that we should all **Bee aware**.

Currently, bee health in the UK and in many other countries worldwide is being compromised and naturally this is of very serious concern. A number of culprits have been identified: including

- Parasitic mites such as Varroa
- Bacterial, fungal and viral diseases
- Habitat loss and degradation
- Genetic factors

Bee experts are calling for more research into honey bee health and for measures to improve bee habitat.

Some claims have also been made of a possible link between the decline in bee populations and the use of some insecticides. This has not been shown scientifically but has been closely monitored by the regulators and the companies themselves. Provided that garden care products are used as directed on the label, they will not pose a problem to bee health.



## Bee informed

Garden Care Products, including insecticides based on synthetic or naturally sourced ingredients, are highly effective but must be used responsibly. If they are used and disposed of according to the label instructions, they will not harm the environment or affect the wildlife in your garden.

*Before deciding whether or not to use insecticides in our gardens, it is best that we **Bee informed**.*

Insecticides are used to control damaging and unwanted pests. Some carry specific bee risk warnings and care should be taken not to apply them onto open flowers or when bees are actively foraging.

Insecticides fall into two categories:

- **Contact** – as their name suggests, kill pests directly upon contact.
- **Systemic** – as well as killing pests on direct contact, they are absorbed into the plant and kill pests when they feed on the plant sap or tissue, often giving protection for several weeks.



## Protecting your garden without harming bees

There is no reason to stop using tried and trusted pest control treatments in your garden. To ensure that your fruit and vegetables, flowers, bushes and lawns, are healthy and free from harmful insects and disease while maintaining a safe habitat for bees, you just need to

### **Bee responsible:**

- **Always read the product label and follow the instructions exactly**
- **Do not spray when bees are about; it's generally better to apply early morning or in the evening when bees are less active**
- **Do not directly spray open blooms**
- **Do not spray lawns when weeds are in flower; mow first to remove flower heads**

**Bee pro-active** and try some of the following ideas to encourage bees into your garden:

- Plant pollen and nectar-rich species such as phacelia, borage, foxgloves, ivy, poppies, lavender, cotoneaster, sedum, dahlia, geranium, and clover.
- Scatter wildflower seeds onto a patch of bare soil to create a 'wildlife' area.
- Plant a catkin producing tree, like willow, to provide early season forage for bees.
- Provide suitable nesting sites; all sorts of things can be used - cardboard tubes, plant pots, even old teapots!
- Think about becoming a beekeeper and make sure you join your local bee keeping association.

See overleaf for further details.

