

## **BEEKEEPING: HOW TO GET STARTED/POLLINATOR HABITAT**

Why are bees important?

1. Pollination
2. Honey and other hive products
3. Enjoyment

Basic equipment

1. Hive set-up
2. Protective gear

What goes on inside the hive?

1. Queen
2. Life cycle of bees
3. Drones
4. Wax
5. Pollen
6. Propolis
7. Nectar
8. Honey

Basic Hive management

1. Size through the seasons
2. Ventilation
3. Food/water
4. Pests and diseases

Pollinator habitat – honeybees and native bees

1. Basic components: nesting or egg-laying sites, flowers on which to forage, secure overwintering sites, and a refuge from pesticides
2. Water source (avoid your neighbor's pool!)
3. Where native bees call home
  - a. Wood-nesting sites (beetle tunnels in standing dead trees)
  - b. Ground-nesting sites (tunnels)
  - c. Cavity-nesting sites (abandoned rodent burrows)
4. Where honeybees call home
  - a. Cavity: dead tree, upside down flower pot, hollow wall of a barn, bee boxes
5. Specific plants for pollinators

Resources

1. Beekind
2. Xerces Society
3. The Mellissa Garden

