



## The Importance of Building a Bee-Friendly Garden with Your Kids and How to Get Started

If you're looking for an activity that lets you get out in nature, teaches your kids about the scientific processes behind their food, and allows you to do your part to help out your local bee populations, there's nothing better than starting a bee-friendly garden with your children.

### **Why bee-friendly?**

The word "biodiversity" may not mean a lot to you, but it's the basis for all life on Earth. As bees fly from flower to flower, they collect pollen - which then pollinate other flowers. Without this, the world's plant population would be much less diverse. For you, that means that many of the foods you love to eat and flowers you love to look at simply wouldn't exist. It's thought that at least 70 of the top 100 crops produced in the country are based on bee pollination. Almost every time you eat a meal, you can thank a bee. The [importance of bees](#) cannot be overstated, and they are in danger. Bee populations have seen a decline over the past few decades, largely in part to man-made dangers like pesticides and habitat destruction. By planting a bee-friendly garden, you are doing your part to help protect these vital members of our ecosystem. For more reasons to care about saving the bees, check [here](#).

### **Why involve the kids?**

A better question may be *why not involve the kids?* It's important to teach your children about the processes behind life, why it's good to know where your food comes from, how to properly manage a garden, and the importance of bees in that system. The earlier you begin to expose your kids to the garden, the greater chance you have of fostering a love of nature, plants, and bees. Gardening helps parents model healthy behaviors for their children. Check out [this guide](#) for how to garden with the family.

## **How to get started**

So you're looking to begin a bee-friendly garden with your kids. The first step - before any weeding, tilling, or planting is done - is to learn about what makes a garden bee-friendly. Are there things that bees like and things they don't like in an outdoor space? Absolutely.

Learn about which flowers bees are the most attracted to. In general, bees like native species with easy-to-access pollen and nectar, usually in the blue, purple, or white variety. Bees like very fragrant flowers. [Here's](#) a good starter list for flowers that bees love.

Know what garden "accessories" are good for bees - as in all the non-plant components that make up the garden. Bees need water, just like birds. Know how to build a [proper bee bath](#) (it'll be shallow, with rocks and stones for landing). Not all bees are hive-based - many burrow into the ground and build nests. Your garden should include at least a small patch of untouched, clear ground for these type of bees. Remember, you don't simply want to provide pollen for passing bees. To have a true bee-friendly space, you want to provide a habitat as well.

Finally, when starting your garden, never ever try to ward off bugs with pesticides. These chemicals are known to harm bees, and can even destroy entire colonies. All of your backyard gardening should be 100% organic.

Gardening provides a physical workout, stress relief, a mental health boost, and an opportunity for education. This is reason enough to get your family involved. But when you add the bee element to the mix, it makes the project even more special. Your kids will have to carry the "save the bees" torch for the next generation. It's best to start them early.

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