

# 5 Tips to Protect Pollinators from Pesticides



– **Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM).**

IPM helps you to keep pesticide use down to a minimum. It gives you the option to choose less toxic chemicals. As a bonus you will save money on chemicals and help to avoid chemical resistance in pests. Consider spot spraying or only applying to specific problem areas not a whole paddock or orchard.

– **Select less toxic options.**

Some situations allow a choice of compounds to use. Pesticides hazardous to bees must state so on the label. Microencapsulated insecticides can be carried back to the colony like pollen and remain poisonous for long periods. Dusts are more hazardous than liquid formulations. Emulsifiable concentrates are less hazardous than wettable powders. Ultra-low-volume (ULV) formulations are usually more hazardous than other liquid formulations. When sowing with insecticide treated seed, slash or control flowering weeds in the paddock prior to planting so that bees are not attracted to the paddock for foraging.

– **Don't spray flowering plants when bees are foraging.** Most bees are killed when flowering crops are sprayed. Avoid spraying flowering plants if possible. If you must spray, apply pesticides when bees are not flying, preferably at late evening or night. This allows time for the chemicals to partially or totally decompose before morning. Always check a paddock for bee activity before application. Check wind direction and use drift-reduction application equipment that is properly maintained and calibrated.

– **Do not contaminate water.** Bees drink water from damp soil, puddles, creeks and dams. Never contaminate standing water with pesticides or drain spray tank contents onto the ground, creating puddles.

– **Provide pollinator refuges away from active paddocks.** Maintain unsprayed flowering plant borders, windbreaks, hedgerows and headlands. Paddocks of mixed lucerne, clover, wildflowers or healthy natural areas will help bees and beneficial insects avoid sprayed areas and survive through the tough times.

## For more information...

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