Ways to Be Kind to Bees

A Bee-Zine
By Lexi Brewer
Plant Bee-Friendly Plants!

Here are some examples:

- Lavender
- Buttercup
- Mint
- Sunflower
- Poppy
- Sage
Bee’s Need Weeds!

Dandelions and clovers are an important early food source for honeybees and bumblebees. Let them bloom first for the bee’s and then trim them before they go to seed, if you want.
Bee's Need
Trees!

Plant and tend to trees in your yard. Bee's get most of their nectar from spring blooming trees. They also provide building materials and natural shelters.
Don’t Use Harmful Pesticides!

They are bad for bees and they are one of the major causes in Colony Collapse Disorder. Use natural pesticide and fertilizers and encourage ladybugs and spiders because they eat garden pests.
Build Bee Homes!

Here are some ideas: leave a patch of undisturbed dirt in a sunny spot for bee's that burrow.

Put a Mason Bee home in your yard.

Bee Storytime: Last year, we had red-bottom bumblebees build a nest in an empty birdhouse. It was fun watching them!
Build a Bee Boat!

Bees are not good swimmers, they can drown in puddles, bird baths or swimming pools. Help them by using a leaf or stick to gently lift them out of the water. You can also build Bee Boats out of wine corks!

Bee Storytime: Last summer I would rescue bees from my pool every day! I would use a stick or leaf to gently lift them out of the water. Sometimes I would scoop them up with a bottle cap.
Build a Bee Bath!

Bees get thirsty so put out a shallow dish filled with clean water. Put in some small pebbles or sticks for bees to land on while drinking.
Be Friends with Bees!

Bee's don't want to hurt you, they are just busy collecting food from flowers. If a bee lands on you, they just want to sniff you. Bees can smell pheromones of fear and anger; this might make them sting you. So, hold still, remain calm and gently blow on the bee.
Help a Tired Bee!

You can give a little bit of sugar water on a spoon to help a tired bee. Two parts white, granulated sugar to one-part water. Don’t leave out sugar water in large quantities though.

Bee Storytime: I helped a tired bumble bee last year by giving it a little sugar water on a spoon. It stayed in a planter for quite a long time and I was able to watch it as it recovered.
Buy local, raw honey and local, organic food!
The End

Thank you for bee-ing kind to bees!