

What's the deal with BEEES?



1. We're not talking about HONEY BEES.

Honey Bees (*Apis mellifera* and sub spp.), though perfectly nice bees, are invasive except in Europe, Western Asia, and South Africa. Even in native ranges, most are domesticated animals used in agriculture. They have problems like all farm animals do, but mostly they're fine.



2. Bees are incredibly DIVERSE.

They come in all sizes, shapes, and colors. Most nest alone underground. Some sleep hanging from twigs (by their jaws!) Some swipe food from other bees. Some cut leaves into intricate structures. Some chew through solid dead trees. Some are smaller than a grain of rice!



3. Native bees make LIFE POSSIBLE.

It's nearly impossible to overstate how important native bees and other pollinators are to literally every living creature on Earth.



4. Without bees, everything FALLS APART.

Plants and bees have a long evolutionary history together. Plants need bees and other pollinators to reproduce. Without plants, food webs in ecosystems collapse.



5. Bees are in TROUBLE.

Many populations of wild bees are declining or threatened with extinction. This happens where habitats of native flowering plants are destroyed. Pesticides and disease also play a role.



6. But it's not HOPELESS!

Advocate for laws that protect vulnerable habitats. Stop mowing your yard so much. Plant native flowering plants around your home. Cut out pesticides. And most important:

TELL YOUR FRIENDS!



Learn more:



davehuth.com



www.xerces.org/endangered-species/wild-bees



blog.nature.org/2019/08/19/focus-on-native-bees-not-honey-bees/