

Your Garden

Feed A Bee, Feed The Planet

(NAPSA)—Apples, broccoli, cherries, almonds—they all have something in common that may surprise you.

Besides the fact that they may be in your kitchen right now, each one of these foods is available thanks to the honey bee and other pollinators. In fact, about one-third of the human food supply depends on bees and other pollinators. Chances are, honey bees have a hand in producing some of your favorite foods. And with all of their hard work, bees need to eat, too.

However, bees are struggling to find adequate, diverse food sources due to habitat loss. Recently, the White House launched the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge to create ways for everyone to support the issue and increase forage. With a global population expected to rise to more than 9 billion people by 2050, 70 percent more food will need to be produced. This



Everyone can support pollinator health by growing plants that produce bee-attractant flowers in backyards and throughout communities.



Your yard can be a great place to feed a bee.

means we all have to pitch in to help feed the bees so they can continue to produce the fruits, nuts and vegetables that people need for a healthy diet.

Join the effort to create a million pollinator gardens and feed the bees. Here are three ways you can help increase forage area for bees and other pollinators:

- Learn more about native bee-attractant plants.

The Pollinator Partnership's Bee Smart mobile app can help you choose the best plants to grow in your garden to attract bees and other pollinators.

- Ask the Feed a Bee initiative to plant flowers on your "bee-half."

Feed a Bee is an initiative to increase forage areas for honey bees and other pollinators.

By visiting www.FeedABee.com, you can ask the Feed a Bee initiative to plant flowers for you that produce the pollen and nectar that bees need to survive and thrive. Nearly 200,000 people have pledged to plant 50 million flowers in the U.S., and it doesn't stop there. Feed a Bee is also partnering with government and nonprofit organizations and businesses across the country to plant thousands of acres of forage for bees.

- Grow your own bee-attractant plants.

Through FeedABee.com, you can also commit to planting your own bee-attractant plants using a helpful growing guide and tips for creating bee-attractant habitats for pollinators. Additionally, you can share your planting photos using #FeedABee on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Tumblr.

Whether you own acres of land or a flowerpot on your balcony, have a green thumb or struggle to keep fake flowers "alive," you can play a part in helping to feed a bee and, in turn, help them feed the world.

To learn more about bees and why they are important, visit <http://beehealth.bayer.us/home>.