Working Together to Protect Bees

GROWERS, LANDOWNERS, AND BEEKEEPERS CAN LEARN FROM EACH OTHER:
Protecting pollinators from pesticides is a challenging task that requires beekeepers, growers, landowners, and pesticide applicators to work together. Openly communicating hive locations and pest management plans can make an impact in pesticide exposure to bees. Start taking steps today to protect the bees in your area.

GROWER & APPLICATOR RESPONSIBILITIES:
• Familiarize yourself with pesticides that are highly toxic to bees. When possible, choose pesticides with lower toxicity.
• Always follow label laws. Consult Cornell’s Pesticide Management Education Program to better understand pollinator protection language on labels.
• Develop an integrated pest management (IPM) plan that reduces the use of pesticides.
• When using pesticides...
  • Choose those with short residual activity
  • Reduce drift via technology and weather forecasting
  • Understand pollinator visitation habits to time applications when they are not present
  • Inform pesticide applicators of your intent to use best practices for pollinators
• Consult your local beekeeping club to identify nearby beekeepers. Find clubs on the Cornell Pollinator Network website.
• If possible, alert beekeepers within a 3 mile radius at least 48 hours prior to application
• Consult your crops IPM guide for products to use during bloom.

BEEKEEPER RESPONSIBILITIES:
• Share hive locations with growers and landowners within a 3 mile radius. Clearly post contact information on or near your hives that can be seen from a distance.
• Develop a plan to relocate your colonies in the event of a pesticide application notice. Identify back up locations if possible.
• Educate growers about the foraging times and conditions for honey bees.
• Develop an IPM plan that reduces miticide use. Some miticides interact with certain pesticides by increasing their toxicity.
• Each year, replace two old frames from each hive body with fresh foundation to minimize pesticide accumulation in wax.
• Use a written contract every time pollination services are procured. See our example located on the Cornell Pollinator Network website

CONTACTS AND RESOURCES
Cornell Pesticide Management Education Program www.pmep.cce.cornell.edu
Cornell Pollinator Network www.pollinator.cals.cornell.edu
NYS Integrated Pest Management www.nysipm.cornell.edu
Cornell Cooperative Extension www.cce.cornell.edu
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation www.dec.ny.gov
NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets www.agriculture.ny.gov