

Beekeepers and Growers Can Work Together to Protect Bees

California laws and bee protection regulations have been put in place to protect managed bees. However, cooperation between growers and beekeepers has proven to be the most effective way to reduce harm to bees from pesticides. Beekeepers should do their best to maintain strong colonies and growers should be diligent in efforts to safeguard bees from pesticide applications. Both parties can help by working together to:

- Coordinate dates of apiary arrival and departure with crop bloom and pesticide use.
- Discuss timing of applications.
- Inform neighboring growers of apiary locations so that precautions can be taken.
- Become familiar with each other's management practices.



Links to Bee Protection

Registering locations of apiaries with the county agricultural commissioner and asking for notification of pesticides labeled “toxic to bees” prior to use on blossoming plants.

Communication between the beekeeper and the grower/ applicator about the pesticides to be applied.

Communication between the beekeeper and applicator about location, time and method of application of pesticides planned to be applied.

Breaking one link of communication breaks the protection!



COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

Contact the local county agricultural commissioner (CAC) by visiting the California Department of Food and Agriculture website at: <http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/exec/county/countymap/>

Help protect managed bees:
REGISTER BEES WITH
THE LOCAL CAC and
PROPERLY IDENTIFY HIVES

Bee Aware!



HELP PROTECT MANAGED BEES

GROWER AND BEEKEEPER COLLABORATION



Foster Communication!

Growers and Beekeepers: Improve Communication!

Help Keep Bees Safe by Fostering Communication and Cooperation

Honey bees are vital to the efficient crop production of many commodities and are economically significant to the agricultural industry. It is important that honeybees and other pollinators are kept safe in order to protect agriculture. Many experts believe cooperation between growers and beekeepers is one of the most successful ways to reduce incidents that harm bees due to pesticide exposure. Evidence suggests these incidents are due to a lack of information or awareness.

Growers and beekeepers can work together and share information that will benefit each other and foster working relationships that can help them understand each other's management challenges and protect bees!



Consider discussing ways to minimize harm to bees and other pollinators from possible pesticide exposure.

Develop working relationships that promote communication and cooperation

Help Prevent Harm to Bees: Discuss Protection Strategies

Many pesticides can be used safely near bees when label directions are followed. Using pesticides correctly minimizes harm to bees and other pollinators, as well as their food and water sources.

In order to protect bees, growers and beekeepers should consider talking (possibly document via contract) about the following:

- Coordinating timing of pesticide applications with dates of apiary arrival and departure.
- Determining pesticides to be used while bees are present.
- Creating a “buffer” between pesticide treated areas and apiaries.
- Registering apiary location with local county agricultural commissioner and participating in a pesticide notification program.
- Identifying who is responsible for providing water and feeding sources.
- Identifying hives or apiary location with beekeeper contact information.



COLLABORATION
Presents the opportunity to discuss the effects of pesticides on bees and the best time to apply pesticides.

COMMUNICATION

Establish communication with growers, pesticide applicators, pest control advisors and local county agricultural commissioners.

