

WILL THE BEES LIKE IT HERE?

You can use this list of questions to see how your garden or yard will help bees! After answering these questions, you will know what steps to take to make your garden a place where bees will want to make their nests, collect food, and raise their young.

Are there areas with sandy, loose soil?

Yes (+1 point)

No (0 points)

Are there areas with bare ground, where you can see the soil?

Yes (+1 point)

No (0 points)

Are there areas where the soil is left alone, and not dug up for planting vegetables or other plants?

Yes (+1 point)

No (0 points)

TOTAL POINTS: _____

If you have 0 or 1 points, what can you do to add more nesting areas for ground-nesting bees in your garden or yard?

DOES YOUR GARDEN HAVE NESTING SITES FOR BEES THAT LIVE IN THE GROUND?

Nearly 70% of bee species make their nests in the ground. These bees need to have soils that they can easily dig their tunnels into.

Are there areas with dead trees or dead wood on the ground?

Yes (+1 point)

No (0 points)

Are there areas with plants that have pithy stems?

Yes (+1 point)

No (0 points)

Are there areas with tall bunches of grass?

Yes (+1 point)

No (0 points)

Is there a bee nesting box (a box that has holes or hollow tubes for the bees to nest in)?

Yes (+1 point)

No (0 points)

TOTAL POINTS: _____

If you have 0 or 1 points, what can you do to add more nesting areas for wood-nesting bees in your garden or yard?

DOES YOUR GARDEN HAVE NESTING SITES FOR BEES THAT LIVE IN WOOD?

Many bee species make their nests inside dead wood or soft "pithy" stems (like the stems you find on raspberry bushes).

How many different kinds of flowering plants do you see?

0 or 1 (1 point)

2 to 4 (2 points)

More than 5 (3 points)

How many different kinds of flowering plants do you see bees and other insects visiting? (you can look for plants with flowers of different colors and shapes).

1 or 2 (1 point)

2 or 4 (2 points)

More than 5 (3 points)

If the square below was your garden or yard, fill in the number of blocks that are covered with flowering plants.

1 or 2 (1 point)

2 or 4 (2 points)

More than 5 (3 points)

TOTAL POINTS: _____

If you have less than 4 points, what can you do to add more flowering plants for bees in your yard?

DOES YOUR GARDEN HAVE FLOWERING PLANTS THAT THE BEES CAN FEED FROM?

Bees collect nectar and pollen from flowers to feed themselves and their babies. Bees need to have a lot of different kinds of flowers to get the food and nutrition they need.



PennState



This assessment is intended to help you get started with evaluating your gardens and landscapes. For more detailed information, please visit the Penn State Center for Pollinator Research website, where you can get more information from the Pennsylvania Pollinator Protection Plan and Penn State Master Gardeners Pollinator Gardener Certification Program.