



1-2-3s OF PROTECTING BEES



Minimize exposure to pesticides.

- Use care in applying miticides in and around hives, apiaries and storage facilities. Follow all label instructions carefully.
- Do not place hives in fields treated with insecticides that are toxic to bees until 48 to 72 hours after application. Learn about residual toxicity of specific insecticides at [EPA.gov/pollinator-protection/residual-time-25-bee-mortality-rt25-data](https://www.epa.gov/pollinator-protection/residual-time-25-bee-mortality-rt25-data).
- Set up apiaries at least 4 miles from crops treated with insecticides classified as highly toxic to bees. Learn about agricultural land use near your hives via CropScape and FieldWatch.
- Create a contingency plan for what you will do in case of a nearby insecticide application, such as providing supplement sugar and protein or covering colonies with wet burlap.
- Maintain photographic evidence of hives in all seasons to document any potential exposure to insecticides. Regularly inspect bee behavior to detect any problems early



Communicate and coordinate with farmers.

- Obtain landowner and/or farmer permission for hive placement every year and keep in contact. GPS-based apps like [DriftWatch](#) and [BeeConnected](#) (Australia, Canada and U.K.) are useful.
- Inform farmers and insect vector (e.g., mosquito) sprayers where your beehives will be placed in or near their fields. GIS-based bee colony crop registries can help (e.g., [North Dakota Bee Map](#), [FieldWatch](#))
- Clearly post your name, address and phone number on apiaries in large lettering.
- Make sure hives are readily visible from a distance so pesticide applicators can spot them.
- Create an agreement with your local farmer(s) to guide interactions throughout the growing season based on hive locations and what, where and when they are spraying. Find out if any of their product labels have precautions or restrictions regarding bees. Learn about local insect control problems and IPM programs for crops in which hives are placed.
- Comply with all requirements of your state's beekeeping laws, including obtaining a license, registering all apiary and hive locations, and posting contact information.



Provide a safe environment.

- Consider no-till canola as an ideal habitat and food source for bees.
- Putting hives in flowering no-till crops in general are beneficial as they prevent disturbance to ground-nesting or over-wintering bees.
- Use good beekeeping practices to prevent or control Varroa mite infestation, diseases and poor nutrition. This includes screening and treatment.
- Ensure that a clean water source is available for bees at all times.
- Feed bees whenever plentiful local food is not available.