

Bee Watering Bowl 6-8

By: Shirley Rose

Lesson

Providing a safe, consistent source of water for bees in your garden is important because all living things need water & bees are no exception. Bees also gather water to take back to their hives & nests. Here, the bees use water to dilute honey, regulate humidity, feed larvae & cool the hive. When temperature in the hive rises too high, the bees go into action. Droplets of water are placed on the surface of the honeycomb to keep the hive cooler. Then worker bees fan their wings to circulate air through the colony. Air passing over the water droplets has a cooling effect, just like your air conditioner! Bees communicate about the best places to gather nectar & pollen. They also tell the others where to find water upon their return to the hive. That is why you should always check the level of your bee watering bowl. The bees are depending on you. As you know, bee populations are in trouble & can use any kind of help they can get. Bees work hardest in the spring & need reliable sources of water to rehydrate. They get this water from places like bird baths, rivers & streams, & open pools of water, but they risk drowning & poisoning from chemicals & pesticides. You can help by providing them with an easier place to safely drink by placing marbles to stand on inside of a shallow bath of water.



There are five essential elements for a bee garden:

1. Choose colorful plants that are best suited for attracting bees in your region
2. Limit the use of insecticides that are toxic to bees & other beneficial pollinators
3. Provide a shallow source of water or bee bowls with marbles or rocks inside them.
4. Provide shelter in your garden from elements such as wind, rain, or cold
5. Create habitat for the nest of the pollinator to support the entire life cycle of the pollinator from egg to larva to adult.

Questions for students

Why do bees need a consistent source of water?

How do bees regulate the Temperature of their hive?

What can you place in the water bowl for bees to stand on, if you don't have glass marbles?

What do bees eat?

Why do bees work the hardest in the spring?



Please us the Other Resources Page
before you start the art project



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Other Learning Resources

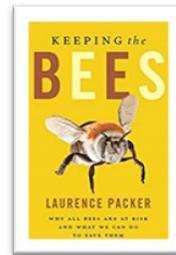
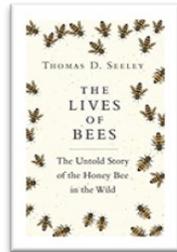
Books to Read

The Lives of Bees : The Untold Story of the Honey Bee in the Wild

by [Thomas D. Seeley](#)

Keeping the Bees :Why All Bees Are at Risk and What We Can Do to Save Them

by [Laurence Packer](#)



Videos About Bees

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fuAE4riYuRO>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QEzlsjAqADA&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBVVLTz4xuQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZJZsM4flpN4&feature=youtu.be>

Videos About Florida Bee Gardens

<https://www.halifaxplantation.com/5-Bee-Friendly-Plants-for-Your-Florida-Garden-1-57.html>



Materials

- 1 Coffee Can
- 1 Creamer Bottle
- Glass marbles or rocks
- 3 sheets tissue paper
- Liquid Glue Non toxic
- Scissors
- Various Colors colored paper
- Pong & Paint brushes
- Small container
- Hot glue



Instructions



1. Gather all your materials.
2. Pace a small amount of Elmer's non-toxic glue inside the top of the coffee can lid & spread it around the bottom, it should be about a 1/16th to and 1/8th of an inch high & cover only the bottom of the marbles or rocks.
3. Place the marbles on top on the glue in the pattern you like & let it dry 2 days before putting water in it. You can make your fist day of using it a special occasion.
4. Cut tissue paper into squares & rectangles of various sizes.
5. Decide what you would like to have on your water bowl (I used leaves). Maybe you would like flowers or butterflies. Whatever you choose, that is the colors of paper you will need. Now cut to your desired shapes & use different sizes to keep it interesting. I used 2 teal & 1 gold sheet as an accent color.
6. In a plastic container mix eight tablespoons of glue & four tablespoons of water, stir well with a paint brush. NOTE: Make sure to dab out most of the glue mixture on the side of the container before applying. You only need a very small amount to adhere the paper, Now, with a sponge brush put a light coat on a small area, place a piece of the tissue paper on the wet area, then slightly overlap the next piece & lightly apply glue mixture on top. You may add more than one layer & overlap the different colors. Do this until you have the creamer bottle & coffee can completely covered. Note that I have the mouth of the bottle all one color, to separate the 2 pieces.
7. Add the pieces you cut out of the construction paper using the same process. Let dry & add a couple coats of Elmer's glue as a protectant. If you have a sealer, you can use that instead. Do not seal the bowl.
8. After it dries, turn over the can & hot glue the bottle to the center of the can. Add a ring of hot wax around the bottle to strengthen the bond. Hot glue the lid to the can. Place in your garden. Check water daily & wash with hose as needed.



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