



Invasive Species
Council of BC

HOW TO TAKE ACTION

Make a Bee Bath

WHAT IS A BEE BATH?

A bee bath is a way to help your pollinating garden guests, that is both easy to make and maintain. Pollinators, like all living creatures, need a reliable water source and collect water for many reasons. They use water to dilute honey, help with digestion, keep their hive cool and to create royal jelly to feed their larvae.

HOW TO MAKE A BEE BATH

Step 1

Find a container to use as the basin for your bee bath. A shallow container works best, as pollinators require dry footing for take-off and landing. However, a deeper container can be used if you do not want to refill as often. If you decide to make a deeper bath, it is important to incorporate a ladder to access the water safely!

When choosing a container, try not to use anything made of metal, as it will heat up in the sun. Also, make sure that there are no drainage holes in it.

TIP! Want to attract as many pollinators as possible? Choose a container in the blue-violet color range. Bumblebees are drawn to violet and blue flowers. While honeybees prefer yellow and blue, so do social wasps, which can include aggressive types.

Step 2

Gather materials for pollinators to land on. Landing stones can be anything that will not absorb water. Some examples are rocks, marbles, or terracotta pot pieces. Build ladders for pollinators to get down to the water by including woody stems, sticks, or wiring.

TIP! Materials like terracotta, or even salt wheels, will provide minerals for your visiting pollinators.

Another potential material for your bath is moss. Moss pieces around the stones will absorb water and act as a spongy service that small pollinators can drink from.

Step 3

Fill your bee bath with water and place in a location they will notice it. Placing near plants they like to visit will get it noticed quickly. You will also want to place it in a location where it is sunny most of the day. Cold water can lower a pollinator's body temperature, reducing their ability to fly.

Place the bath in a spot that is out of the way of your daily activities. Depending on water availability in your area, you could potentially have 40+ bees visiting at once. It is best to set the bath away from where you and any pets, may be near regularly.

Step 4

With your bee bath in place and completed, look at your garden to see if it contains any invasive plants. Invasive plants can be as beautiful as non-invasive plants, but they have hidden properties which can cause harm to the people and places we care about. Be PlantWise and choose only non-invasive plants for your garden. Visit beplantwise.ca for more information. Also check out our [Grow Me Instead guide](#) that will help you find non-invasive plants as an alternative to similar looking invasive ones.

