

GREENING YOUR MIND ABOUT HONEY BEE AND HIVE SAFETY

Honey bees pollinate plants, thus assisting the growth of flowers, vegetables and fruits. In fact, one-third of the food we consume has been pollinated by bees. At B-Street Garden, we have a bee hive located in the southwestern corner of the buffer zone. While the bees will primarily collect pollen and nectar throughout the wetland resource, they will also help our gardens thrive. Please observe a safe distance from the bee hive, as marked by fencing. A gentle species, honey bees will defend themselves if threatened. The hive, beyond being a home to the honey bees, will provide an exciting and local way to educate the community on this beneficial insect. Read on for useful information on being bee-savvy and safe!

Who takes care of the hive?

Joe DeMartino, a trained beekeeper, will manage the hive. No one else is permitted to touch the hive, as Joe has sole responsibility over the bees. As the beekeeper, Joe has special gear and equipment that he uses when opening the hive. B-Street Gardeners and other visitors may not attend to the hive in any way, as we want to avoid distressing the honey bees. We encourage you to contact Joe directly if you have any questions! You may reach him at by email at joe@patshultz.com or by phone at (508) 272-5843.

How should I behave around bees?

Act normally! The bees are unlikely to interfere with your daily gardening tasks, as the hive is located far from the garden plots. If one flies near you, simply leave the bee alone. These bees are not interested in you; they're interested in the plants you grow! Only the worker bees have stingers, which they use only when they feel threatened or when their hive is in danger. As long as you keep a safe distance from the hive, the presence of the bee hive should not affect you. If you are allergic to bee stings, remember to bring your EpiPen along when you garden.

What kind of plants do bees like?¹

Here's a brief list of plants that honey bee especially like:

April: (Perennials) Virginia bluebells

May: (Shrubs) Bearberry, Blueberry, Raspberry
(Perennials) Chives, Columbine, Mountain bluet

June: (Perennials) Beebalm, Bellflower, Queen Anne's Lace, Thyme

July: (Shrubs) Sweet pepperbush, Shining sumac, Butterfly bush
(Perennials) Black eye Susan, Gayfeather, Swamp milkweed
(Herbs) Dill, Lavender, Oregano, Rosemary
(Annuals) Snapdragon, Sunflower

¹ Roberta Clark, "Planting for Pollinators," Barnstable County Beekeepers Association. 2 June 2007, 22 April 2010
<http://www.barnstablebeekeepers.org/calendar/pollinators_calendar.html>.