

# Living Responsibly—The Bees and We

*Therefore strive that your actions day by day may be beautiful prayers. —'Abdu'l-Bahá*



The world is in an unprecedented pollinator crisis. Domesticated bees are suffering from numerous serious problems, and the number of wild bees, bumblebees, and other wild pollinators has declined dramatically. You don't need to be an environmentalist to care: We all depend on these pollinators for many of our food crops. So what can we do?

(1) *We can provide habitat* with native plants in our yards and farms and even in window boxes. Natural lawns that are diverse and include other plants, such as clover and dandelions, are also bee friendly.

(2) *We can avoid pesticides.* Bees are our most important pollinators. Other insects such as butterflies are also pollinators. Using insecticides kills these insects. Herbicides kill important native plants, such as milkweed, that Monarch butterflies rely on as a food source and a place to raise young.

We can avoid the use of chemicals and maintain our garden in a natural, organic way, perhaps even accept some damage on plants that provide habitat for butterfly and moth larvae. For more information and ideas, check out the [Pollinators website](#) of the US Fish and Wildlife Service.