



## Pollinator Messages

*As a professional applicator, use the following key messages when discussing pollinator health with customers, policy makers, and other audiences.*

### **Our industry is committed to educating others on responsible pesticide use to help protect pollinators.**

- Bees pollinate more than 16 percent of flowering plant species. We are committed to taking actions we know can make a difference to pollinator health.

### **Communication, collaboration, and effective stewardship are the best ways to improve bee health.**

- Scientists, governments, and industry professionals agree that bee health is a complex issue.
- Research points to multiple factors affecting pollinators, including pests and parasites, microbial diseases, nutrition problems, bee management practices, and climate change.
- A collaborative effort is needed to work toward a common goal of promoting the health of bees.

### **Everyone – from expert researchers to home gardeners – can contribute to promoting pollinator health.**

- The Varroa mite is a deadly, destructive parasite that attacks both adult bees and the developing bee larvae. Development of an effective prevention product to control the mite is a significant opportunity to prevent bee loss.
- Bee management, including proper nutrition for bees, is essential to keeping bees healthy and able to battle pathogens, disease, and other stressors.
- Individuals selecting plants for landscapes and gardens can make pollinator-friendly selections offering additional pollination opportunities to bees.
- Proper pesticide use – ensured by reading and following all label instructions – allows for control of harmful pests while protecting the health of bees.

### **One group of pesticides called neonicotinoids has received significant attention in the pollinator health discussion.**

- It's important to remember neonicotinoids are registered through the EPA's Reduced Risk Pesticide program, which is designed for products that pose less risk to human health and the environment.
- Neonicotinoids are a newer class of pesticides developed in the 90s to replace older products.
- Neonicotinoids keep lawns and gardens pest free; shield homes from termites; protect nursery plants and crops; and protect pets from fleas and ticks.
- As is the case with all pesticides, neonicotinoids can be used safely and will not harm pollinators when they are applied according to label instructions.

### **EPA rigorously reviews all pesticides for potential health and environmental impact before any product can be made available for sale and use.**

- To make its regulatory decisions, EPA relies on its gold-standard risk assessments conducted by its scientists using external peer-review methodology and the most current scientific information and standards.
- Once a pesticide is registered, the EPA continues to study and evaluate its safety and effect on people and the environment to make sure it meets the most current scientific standards.

**Visit [www.debugthemyths.com](http://www.debugthemyths.com) and @DebugtheMyths on Twitter to learn more on pollinators and ways to promote bee health.**