

# Protecting pollinators

We are committed to reducing risks to pollinators.

Grain Farmers of Ontario has been working on a number of initiatives to address the safe handling and use of neonicotinoid seed treatments including:



## WORKING

### TO FIND SOLUTIONS

for bee health and promote sustainable agriculture practices

## COMMUNICATING

### REGULARLY

with our membership about new practices

## PROMOTING

### RESEARCH

into overall pollinator health



## SUPPORTING

### MANDATORY INTRODUCTION

of a new seed flow lubricant that reduces escaping dust during planting

## PARTICIPATING

### IN WORKING GROUPS

including the Ontario Bee Health Working Group and in a variety of other forums alongside beekeepers

## SUPPORTING

### ANALYSIS

of dust reducing deflectors installed on farm equipment used during planting



Grain Farmers of Ontario's pollinator protection portal provides information and promotes the use of new guidelines for safe handling and planting procedures: <http://www.gfo.ca/ProtectingPollinators>

The following link takes you to PMRA's recommendations and other measures that can be taken by growers to protect pollinators, including honeybees, from pesticide exposure: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pest/index-eng.php>



[www.GoodinEveryGrain.ca](http://www.GoodinEveryGrain.ca)

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## Factors affecting honey bee health



### Parasites

The varroa mite is the most dangerous factor affecting Canadian hives. The parasite is present in most domesticated honey bee colonies across the country. It infests the hive, weakens honey bees, lowers the success of each generation, and spreads disease throughout the hive.



### Weather

In areas of prolonged cold, including parts of Canada, the weather can be a stress on the hive, making insulation, ventilation, health, and food supply extremely important for overwintering. Harsh conditions, such as wind, drought and poor growing seasons can also reduce the food supply for honey bees.



### Disease

Honey bees are affected by more than 18 viruses and can be infected by bacteria like European Foulbrood and American Foulbrood, which can cause losses in honey bee larvae.



### Inadequate nutrition

Without enough nectar and pollen collected during the summer months, a honey bee hive won't have enough food to survive the winter months. It's also important that there are flowering plants blooming all summer long, making a variety of different plants important. Luckily, the agriculture community is doing their part to bring healthy food to pollinators in neighbourhoods just like yours.



### Pesticides

Pesticides used today are the safest they've ever been. In fact, many beekeepers use pesticides to protect their hives. If used incorrectly, however, they can affect nearby honey bees.

