

THE TRUTH ABOUT BEES

~Worker bees are attracted to flowers and budding trees, landing on open flowers and picking up pollen on their legs and bodies as they suck up the nectar in the flowers. The pollen is then distributed across the area as they land on each flower.

~Bees do not go looking to sting someone when they're away from their hives. As a matter of fact, bees would rather go about their business than pay attention to anything a human is doing.

~Not all bees sting, either. Male bees do not have stingers; only the female worker bees sting.

HOW TO DETER BEES

The best way to stop bees from being in your yard is to take some precautionary measures.

KEEP THE AREA AROUND TRASH AND RECYCLING CONTAINERS CLEAN

Bees are attracted to sugary syrups and juices. Be sure to wash out your soda cans and juice drink boxes before disposing of them to keep bees away. And be sure to wash away any spills outside the containers as quickly as possible, especially if any has spilled on the handle or the top; you will get a nasty surprise if you reach to open your recycling bin, only to get stung by a bee hiding just under the lip of the container.

LOCK DOWN YOUR TRASH AND RECYCLING CONTAINERS

As an added precaution, make sure your trash and recycling containers are always closed. You don't want bees to get into your trash container.

CLEAN UP ANY STANDING WATER

Bees are also attracted to standing water, so make sure there are no areas of standing water, especially in the middle of summer. A bird bath may be nice to have most times of the year, but in the middle of summer, it will attract bees along with the birds.

NATURAL BEE REPELLANTS

Tea tree oil, citronella, lemon grass and peppermint oil all repel bees.