

Bee9

HONEY



Did you know that Birmingham has its own colony of Brummie Bees?

Our friends over at the Custard Factory have been looking after 3 hives of urban bees on their rooftop. Which means a total of about 150,000 bees are flying around Digbeth at the height of summer looking for flowers. Below they offer us some tips on how to create a healthy, safe and happy environment for our buzzing Brummie friends ...

... A small amount of work in people's back gardens can make a huge difference to pollinators in general. Often the 'work' required is actually to do nothing! For example I am not mowing part of my lawn because I noticed that solitary bees are digging tunnels to lay eggs in the soil (they leave little tiny mounds that look like mini molehills) - but take a look at some of the simple tips below for other ways to help ...

Keep it clean

Nasty Pesticides, toxic herbicides and synthetic fertilizers can all be damaging to our bees. Try to keep your green spaces clean and use natural alternatives.

BIG
BRUMMIE

Make a Bee Bath

Bees need water to dilute stored honey so they can feed their baby sister larvae. Help them keep hydrated by filling a small bowl or plant pot with fresh water. Add small pebbles or stones that sit above the water line, so that the bees have somewhere safe to land .



This lovely bee is sucking up a drop of water left by a dripping tap



Plant flowers

It can be hard for our lovely urban bees to find a safe habitat with nutritional food sources. By planting beautiful plants that are rich in pollen and nectar you can help our bees to thrive. And you don't need lots of space to do this...

A window box or a planter on a doorstep will brighten our city and fatten up our bees.

Bee First Aid

If you find an exhausted bee and you think they may need your aid; a solution of sugar water can help to revive them.

A third of a teaspoon of sugar mixed into a syrup with a few drops of water should do the trick. If you then hold the spoon next to the bee, or put a drop of the syrup next to the bee's head, you will be able to see it stick its tongue out to suck up the syrup.



But remember that this should only be done in emergency situations, as feeding bees sugar water can be detrimental to the hive in the long run.