



ABUZZ!



News from around the hive
and around the world!



ABUZZ!

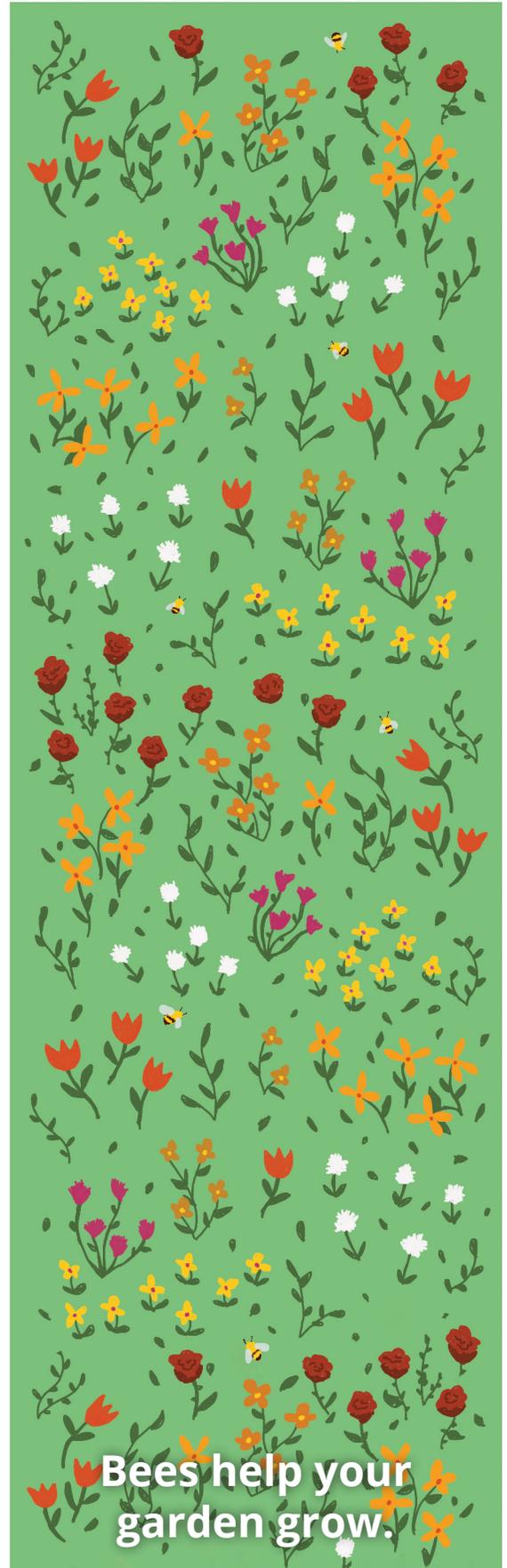


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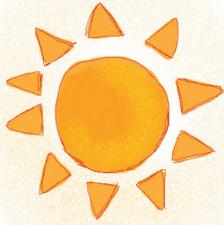
Abuzz! Contributors

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**Bees help your
garden grow.**

Weather



Mostly Sunny

High: 75° F (24° C)

Low: 60° F (16° C)

Mostly sunny with little chance of rain. Light winds under 1 mph. Ideal weather for nectar and pollen gathering.



Do you like apples? How about blueberries, peaches, plums, kiwis, mangos, melons, and cherries? Are you nutty for almonds, cashews, or macadamias? Do you love pumpkin pie and carving Jack-o-lanterns at Halloween? Do you like to stop and smell the roses?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, you can thank honeybees. They are important pollinators of all of these plants and many more. In fact, bees help produce \$15 billion in U.S. crops each year!

Missing Bees Baffle Scientists

By Polly Nator

Beekeeper Purnell Sprout found a terrible sight when he checked on his hives. Nearly all the bees were gone. "Only the queen and a few young were still in the hive," he says. "Where did the thousands of worker bees go?"

They left no trace behind. There was no sign of sickness or animals that raid a hive for its honey. It's as if the bees all just flew off. Scientists call it colony collapse disorder, or CCD, and it's wiped out one-third of bee colonies in the United States since 2006.

A healthy honeybee hive is a bustling place. As many as 60,000 worker bees do everything needed to keep a hive humming. They tend and protect the queen, her eggs, and young bees. And they gather nectar from miles around to make honey that feeds the colony. In the process, bees help plants reproduce by transferring pollen from plant to plant. One-third of the fruits, vegetables, and nuts we eat depend on honeybees for pollination.

So what's causing the bees to cut out on the colony? Scientists aren't sure. It could be pesticides, poisons meant to kill harmful insects that may also be harming the bees. A virus or infection could be to blame. Mites that latch on to bees and weaken them may play a role, too. Several things combined may make the bees a target for CCD. Scientists are working to find out.

In the meantime, everyone can help honeybees by not using pesticides and planting flowers that provide nectar for bees. Bee balm, foxglove, joe-pye weed, and red clover are a few. 🍯



White House's First Bees Are a Natural



By Skep Blanc

When former First Lady Michelle Obama came to the White House in 2009, one of the first things she did was give the thumbs up to having an organic, or all natural, garden on the grounds. But she wanted more than just organic plants. She also wanted honeybee hives—the first ever at the White House.

The honey bees helped pollinate the garden plants, and they made honey used by White House chefs. First Beekeeper Charlie Brandts, now retired, had been a White House carpenter for 25 years and had kept bees at home. He brought one of his own hives and set it up on the White House lawn. He tended the bees and

collected and bottled the honey.

At the end of the bees' first honey-producing season, the White House had collected about 11 gallons of honey. It's an all-natural product, which the President ate at home and gave to guests. The bees collected nectar from trees and flowers growing near the National Mall. So the capital taste of this honey likely included flavors of cherry, clover, chestnut, salvia, and basswood. 🍯

Don't "Bee" Afraid



You've probably seen this before: A bee buzzes by someone, and the person swats, shrieks, and runs around. Pretty funny. If they knew the truth about bees, people wouldn't put on such a show.

The truth is that most bees don't sting. And when they do, it's in defense only. It's never a good idea to approach a beehive, as bees may defend them. So if you find a hive, give the bees plenty of space by walking away from it. But if you come across bees among the flowers outside, there's really no need to worry. Approach bees slowly and calmly, and you are very unlikely to get stung. Leave the bees alone, and they'll leave you alone. Swatting at a bee, however, may cause it to sting. So that's a bad idea—plus it looks silly.

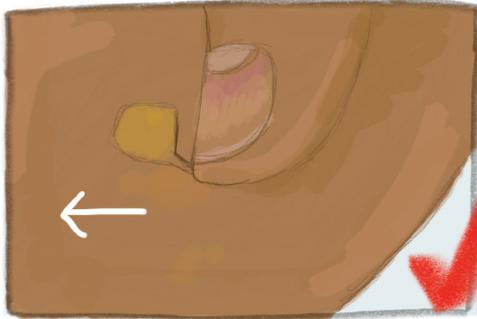
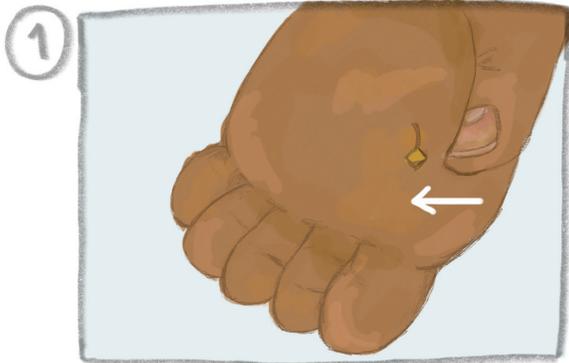
Bee stings do happen. Accidentally stepping on a bee in the grass is a common way people get stung. Should you get stung, here's what to

do. First remove the stinger by scraping it away with your fingernail. Don't grab the stinger and tug on it, as this causes it to release more venom. Wash the sting area well. It may swell a bit, turn red, and itch. Putting ice on the sting will make it feel better.

People who are allergic to bee stings do need to be very careful. To them a bee sting can be much more serious, and even life-threatening. Seek medical attention right away if someone who's allergic to bees gets stung or if many bees sting someone all at once. Stings that cause a rash, hives, stomach discomfort, dizziness, shortness of breath, or trouble swallowing may mean the person is allergic or in need of medical help.

Bees just want to go about their business. If you are mindful of them, there's no reason to "bee" afraid. 🍯

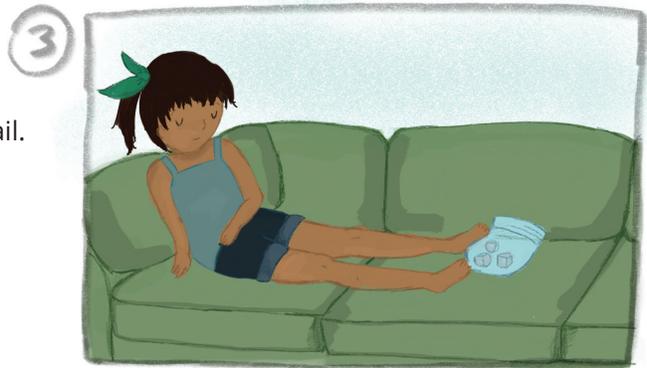
IF A BEE STINGS YOU



Scrape the stinger away with your fingernail.



Wash the sting area well.

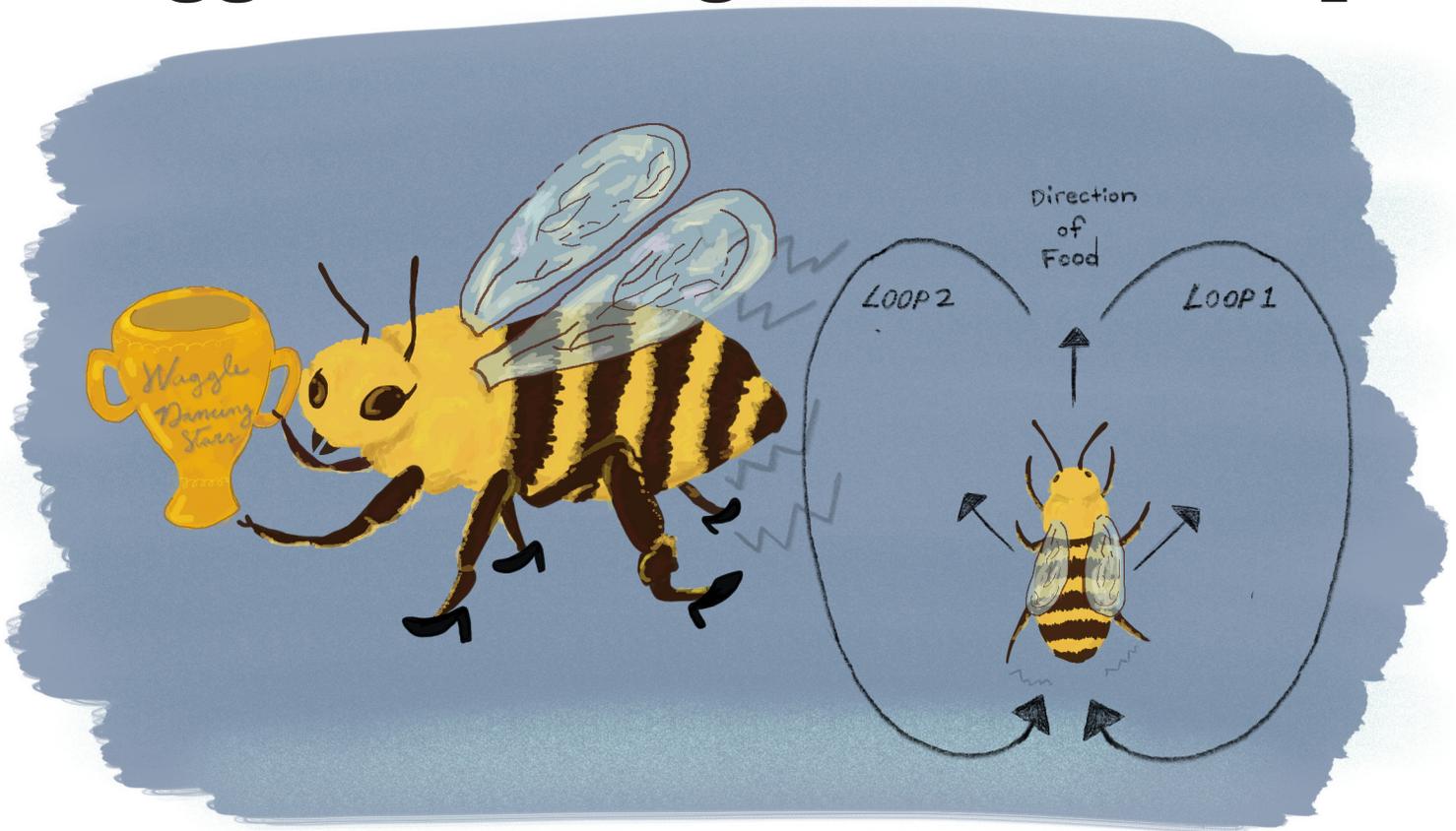


Put ice on sting area to make it feel better.

DO NOT remove by grabbing or tugging the stinger.

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www.thehoneybeeconservancy.org

“Waggle Dancing Stars” Champ



By Honeybee Conservancy News Service

The hit show “Waggle Dancing Stars” ended this season after weeks of tough competition. And the winner? A wagging wonder from Melbourne, Florida.

Dance contestants have to master the different dances that tell other hive members about a food source. The dance has to let the bees know the distance and direction of food so they can fly out and collect it. In the show’s early weeks, contestants performed round dances. These circular dances let workers know that nectar is close to the hive. Dancers then moved on to perform more complicated

waggle dances to show the direction and distance of food farther from the hive. Dancers earned points for communicating distance and direction. But judges also gave extra points for style and presentation.

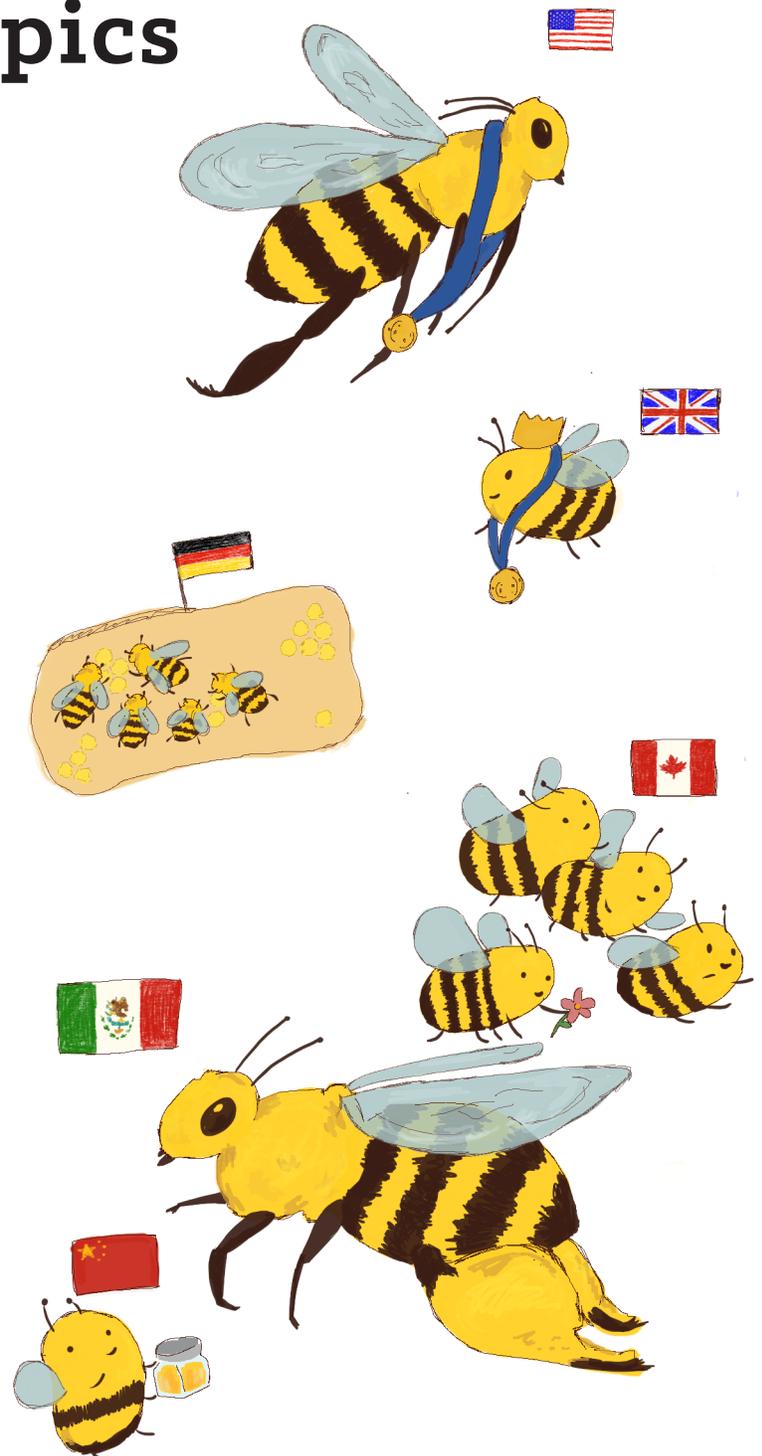
An early favorite in this year’s competition was a worker bee from Grass Valley, California, who endured some stinging remarks from Judge Carrie Ann Inabee. She pulled in viewer votes, though, until she waggled slightly off course in week seven. This cleared the way for this year’s winner, who’s already back at the hive, putting her stylish moves to work. 🐝

Bees Show Who's Best in Honeybee Olympics

By B. Strong

This year's Honeybee Olympics featured bee colonies from around the world in stiff competition for buzzing rights in several events. Here are the top winners.

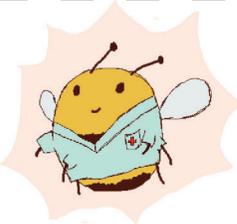
- Gold for fastest flier: USA. A California worker bee, Molly Fera, flew 15 miles per hour.
- Gold medal for egg laying: United Kingdom. A queen, Elizabeth, from Cornwall laid 2,000 eggs in a single day.
- Gold medal for honeycomb construction: Germany. Workers construct wax combs with cells only 0.005 cm thick but that can support more than 25 times their weight.
- Gold medal for teamwork: Canada. This colony's worker bees flew 55,000 miles and visited 2 million flowers to gather enough nectar to make 1 lb. of honey.
- Gold medal for weightlifting: Mexico. The Ukrainian lifter, Melissa, carried more than half her body weight in pollen and nectar back to the hive.
- Gold in overall hive performance: China. The Mifeng colony made more than 60 pounds of honey in one season. 🍯



HELP WANTED



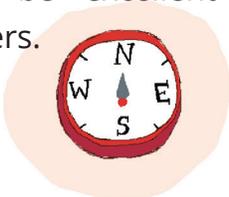
■ **HOUSEKEEPING BEES** needed to clean up hive after eggs hatch and honey cells empty. Must be neat, reliable.



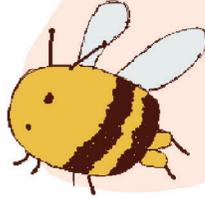
★ NURSE BEES ★

wanted to tend eggs and newly hatched larvae. Must be experienced in making royal jelly.

■ **SCOUT BEES** needed who can locate nectar and pollen. Must be excellent waggle dancers.



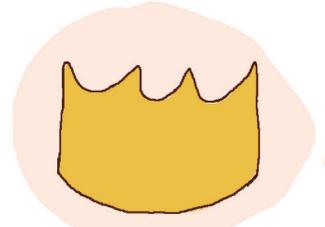
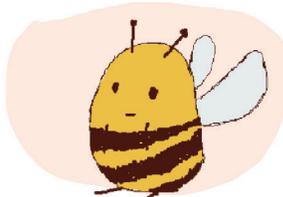
■ **COLLECTOR BEES** able to carry heavy loads of nectar and pollen back to the hive.



➤ GUARD BEES ◀

needed to protect the hive from predators or other invaders. Must be alert and ready at a moment's notice.

■ **DRONES** wanted by the queen bee. No stingers or skills required except to mate with the queen when she leaves the hive. Must be prepared to die after mating.

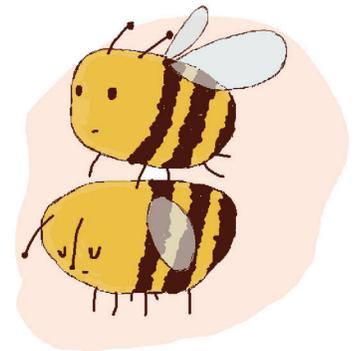


☞ QUEEN BEE ☛

required to lead a busy, productive hive. Must be willing to lay more than 1,000 eggs per day for up to five years.

WORK WANTED

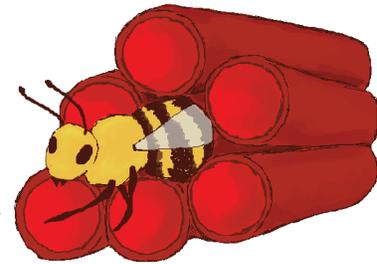
Experienced **undertaker bee** seeks job of removing dead bees from the hive. Too busy to perform memorial services.



Build a Bee Bundle

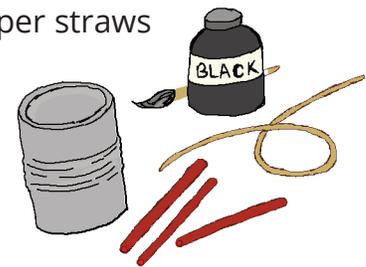
You may not be able to have a beehive in your yard, but you can give a hand to wild bees. That helps honeybees, too! Scientists have found that honeybees are better at pollinating flowers when they work alongside bumblebees. In places where honeybees have been harmed by colony collapse or disease, solitary bees such as orchard mason bees fly in and pick up pollination duties.

Here's how to make a simple nest for orchard mason bees. Unlike honeybees, orchard mason bees live alone. They make their nests in existing holes in trees or wood and do not damage the wood. They are very gentle bees that rarely sting. And they are great pollinators!



What You Need to Make One Nest Bundle

- a can or plastic pipe at least 6 inches long and 2 inches in diameter
- hollow plant stems such as rose stems or bamboo canes, or paper straws to fill the can or pipe (plastic straws do not work well)
- twine or string
- dark-colored paint (optional)



How To Put It Together

1. Trim the stems or paper straws so that they just fit inside the length of the can or pipe.
2. Insert enough stems or straws into the can or pipe to completely fill the inside. Stems or straws should fit snugly so they won't fall out.
3. Bees prefer to nest in dark places, so you may wish to paint the outside of the can or pipe black or another dark color. This step is optional.
4. Tie a piece of twine or string around the middle of the bundle and leave enough extra to tie or hang the bundle in place.
5. Place your bee bundle in a shady spot that is sheltered from rain. Under the eaves of a porch or shed is ideal. The bundle needs to be placed so that the nesting tubes are horizontal, or crosswise, and not up and down.
6. Watch the bundle for signs of nesting bees. If the ends of the tubes are sealed with mud or leaves, you'll know bees have moved in! Other insects may also share space with the bees.



Easy Honey Granola

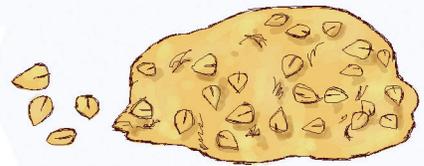
You'll know it's going to be a good day when you eat this yummy honey granola in the morning! This is a great recipe to make with a family member.

What You Need

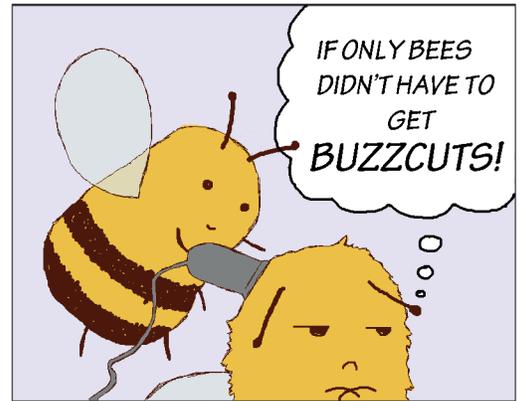
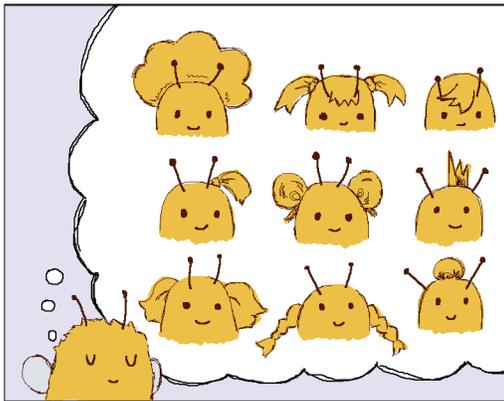
- 1 cup honey
- 4 cups rolled oats
- 1 cup wheat germ
- 1 cup dried fruit such as raisins, cranberries, blueberries, etc. or nuts or seeds of your choice (almonds, walnuts, pecans, sunflower seeds, pumpkin seeds, etc.). You may also wish to combine fruit and nuts.
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup honey
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup vegetable oil
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. cinnamon
- nonstick spray

How To Make It

1. Preheat oven to 250°.
2. Spray a large baking pan with nonstick spray.
3. Mix all ingredients in a large mixing bowl.
4. Spread mixture no more than $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch deep on baking pan.
5. Bake for 30 minutes, stirring every 10 minutes.
6. Let cool.
7. Store in an airtight container.



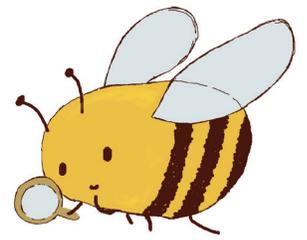
Funny Bees



Draw your own bee comic!



Bee Smart



R P N W M E A R I D Z S X B J
K Z O J K L R H F U X D D E S
D U K L Q I H L J A P N M E D
J D C U L A Y N O L O C Y S D
R B E T P I L E O V M Y I W N
L E C I B X N A A R U M B A J
N N A F I F D A R E F M V X Q
N R H O N E Y X T V R D R Y W
Y K J E H F O O N E A G E D S
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S R G O J H N D W V T X W C S
D Z E V E V I H W V V O C H L

APIARY

BEESWAX

COLONY

DRONE

HIVE

HONEY

LARVA

NURSE

POLLINATE

QUEEN

WAGGLE

WORKER

The Honeybee Conservancy

Our mission is to inspire people to act as stewards for bees and their environment. We place honeybees and solitary bees in school gardens, community gardens, and urban farms that provide locally-grown food to schools, soup kitchens, senior citizen centers, and food banks.

Visit us as www.thehoneybeeconservancy.org to learn more, for activity ideas, and to download more educational materials.



The Honeybee Conservancy/Anthophilous is a project of Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs, which provides non-profit status

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Contact Us!

Let us know if you liked *Abuzz!* Send your comments and photos to melipona@thehoneybeeconservancy.org.

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