



Victory Gardens for Bees: A DIY Guide to Saving the Bees

By Lori Weidenhammer

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Who knew modern civilization may be brought down, not by plagues or war, but by bees? Or, more correctly, by no bees? This book investigates the growing problem of bee mortality and offers practical measures we can all take to help. In ecological terms, bees play a critical role in the survival of many plant communities and continuation of life on this planet. No pollination, no seeds. No seeds, no future.

Now that bees are facing unprecedented levels of die-off caused by a toxic mixture of environmental stresses, a community-based effort is needed to make gardens, fields and landscapes healthy sanctuaries for bees. Just as citizens banded together to produce Victory Gardens to offset the perilous food shortages of World Wars I and II, now a similarly vital level of collective effort is needed to make our gardens into lifesaving shelters for these essential creatures.

Planning a bee-friendly space can provide a beautiful and bountiful selection of edible crops, native plants and fragrant ornamentals, as well as herbs that have medicinal properties for both pollinators and people. With the help of ten inspiring garden plans and planting guides, Weidenhammer shows how bee-friendly plants can be used in creative combinations for plots and pots of all sizes, and are easily grown by novices and seasoned gardeners alike. In the spirit of the history-making Victory Gardens, readers will learn how to pack optimum benefits into a limited space for the survival of hive and home, and backyard beekeepers will learn great planting strategies for making sure their honeybees are healthy and have ample food to overwinter.

Victory Gardens for Bees is also buzzing with DIY projects that will provide nesting sites and essential supplies for precious pollinators. With plenty of photographs to help readers identify bees of all stripes, beekeeping tips and other interesting bee-phemera, this book is a must-have for anyone who wants to do their part to save bees.

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Editorial Review

Review

Lori Weidenhammer provides solutions to novice and experienced gardeners alike ... The book provides descriptions of various bee species, plus detailed planting charts which include plant origin, hardiness, and types of bees they will attract. Whether you are planting a few herbs on a balcony, a backyard vegetable plot, or a school flower garden, this book will help keep your garden abuzz with bee activity. (*Green Teacher*)

About the Author

Lori Weidenhammer is a Vancouver-based interdisciplinary artist originally from Cactus Lake, Saskatchewan. Her father kept bees when she was a child, and years later, she found herself pulled into the culture and science of bees and caring for beehives in her backyard. For the past seven years she has been exploring the persona Madame Beespeaker at venues across the country, sharing the tradition of “telling the bees.” She also regularly appears as the Queen Bee at schools and community events. As an artist and educator Weidenhammer works with students of all ages on identifying native plants, eating locally, gardening for pollinators and guerrilla gardening.

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