


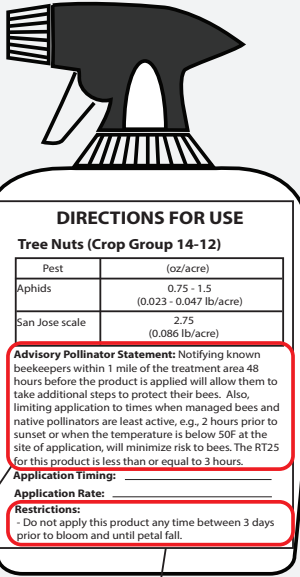


# PROTECT POLLINATORS READ PESTICIDE LABELS



Four steps to reading a pesticide label to determine how risky a treatment is to pollinating insects.



**1. OPEN THE LABEL** and look for the **ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS** statement.




**2. BEE TOXIC PESTICIDES** will be indicated by the phrase **“TOXIC”** or **“HIGHLY TOXIC TO BEES”**. If toxic:



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don't spray when in bloom
wait until all petals fall

**3. Some bee-toxic pesticides BREAK DOWN IN A FEW HOURS.** Look out for the words:



**1. “FORAGING”** or **“VISITING”** = remains toxic for more than 8 h. **DON'T APPLY TO FLOWERING PLANTS!**



**2. “ACTIVELY FORAGING”** or **“ACTIVELY VISITING”** = remains toxic for less than 8 h **ONLY APPLY IN THE EVENING WHEN BEES ARE NOT ACTIVE!**

**4. DIRECTIONS FOR DIRECTIONS (RARE)**

Newer labels have additional precautions for using products around honey bees. These precautions will be specific to the crop and may contain a **Advisory Pollinator Statement**, which outline practices you need to follow to keep bees safe and/or **restrictions around when a pesticide can be applied relative to crop bloom time**. The label may specify RT25, a measure of the time residues remain toxic to bees.

**ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS**

This pesticide is toxic to mammals, birds, fish and aquatic invertebrates.

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This product is **highly toxic** to bees exposed to direct treatment or residues on blooming crops or weeds. Do not apply this product or allow it to drift to blooming crops if bees are **actively foraging** the treatment area.

**DIRECTIONS FOR USE**

**Tree Nuts (Crop Group 14-12)**

Pest	(oz/acre)
Aphids	0.75 - 1.5 (0.023 - 0.047 lb/acre)
San Jose scale	2.75 (0.086 lb/acre)

**Advisory Pollinator Statement:** Notifying known beekeepers within 1 mile of the treatment area 48 hours before the product is applied will allow them to take additional steps to protect their bees. Also, limiting application to times when managed bees and native pollinators are least active, e.g., 2 hours prior to sunset or when the temperature is below 50F at the site of application, will minimize risk to bees. The RT25 for this product is less than or equal to 3 hours.

**Application Timing:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Application Rate:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Restrictions:**

- Do not apply this product any time between 3 days prior to bloom and until petal fall.

[www.pollinator.org/pesticide-education](http://www.pollinator.org/pesticide-education)

# MINIMIZING PESTICIDE EXPOSURE RISK TO BEES

Understanding pesticide label information on the hazard and risks of bees is an important first step to protecting bees. Insecticides and some fungicides are of concern for bees. Here are a few actions to help minimize pesticide exposure to bees while managing pests and diseases.

**1. Avoid sprays during bloom.** Bees face the highest exposure to pesticides when they are applied to the bloom of bee-attractive crops and weeds. When possible, use clean-up sprays before bloom to knock pests and diseases down to reduce the need for bloom treatments. Avoiding treatment during bloom may not always be possible.

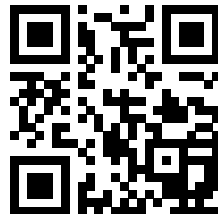
**2. If you must treat during bloom, choose products carefully and apply in the evening.** Choose insecticides that are not labeled as 'Toxic' or 'Highly Toxic' to bees (front of card, Point 2). Avoid insecticides with residual acute toxicity to bees (front of card, Point 3). Treat in the evening or not more than 2 hours before sunset.

**3. Communicate with beekeepers.** Contact beekeepers at least 48 hours prior to applying insecticides or fungicides to blooming bee-attractive crops. Communicate with local beekeepers during the off-season to help reduce conflict during the busy season. Your state may have a program that maps bee colonies; contact your state Department of Agriculture to learn how to access it.

**4. Maintain a buffer around bee colonies and into bee habitat.** Avoid placing bees in a crop, set them outside the spray drift zone (20-100 feet, depending on sprayer technology). Avoid pesticide drift onto bee habitat bordering the crop. Reduce drift by using coarser droplet sizes, drift reducing agent, or intelligent sprayer technology.

**5. Mow blooming weeds.** If there are bee-attractive blooming weeds (e.g., mustard, clover or dandelion), mow them before spraying.

**6. Review Pollinator Protection Plans and use IPM.** Many states and industries provide information on how to protect bees and other pollinators. Contact your Department of Agriculture to obtain this plan. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) can also help reduce bee pesticide exposure. IPM starts with proactive pest or disease management: scouting the crop for pest levels, plant disease resistant cultivars; when damage occurs, determine the cause and decide if you can accept low levels of damage, consider all the control measures, choose the best-suited tool for the pest or disease.



**HELPFUL  
LINKS**

The **North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC)** is a growing collaborative body of more than 170 diverse partners, including respected scientists, researchers, conservationists, government officials and dedicated volunteers. NAPPC's mission is to encourage the health of resident and migratory pollinating animals in North America.

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