

Love

...your city



...Love Our Bees!

Our bees are disappearing and we don't quite know why!

Why do we need bees?

In order for plants to produce fruit and seeds their flowers must be pollinated. Bees are responsible for the pollination of more than 40 important food crops grown in this country.

Apples, pears, cherries and raspberries are just some of the fruits that are pollinated by bees. Plants such as carrots, tomatoes and celery also need bees for pollination. Crops such as sunflowers produce seeds to be crushed to make cooking oil.

Without pollination we would have no seeds to grow new plants. Farm animals also feed on plants such as clover and swede, these are all pollinated by bees. It is estimated that one third of the food crops grown worldwide rely on bees for pollination.

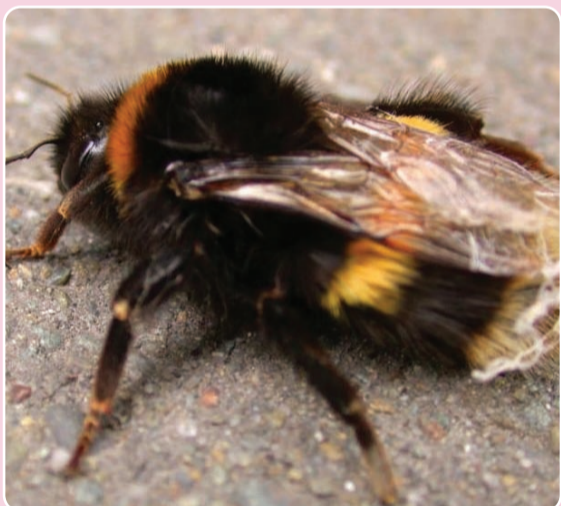
Newcastle City Council is working closely with local bee keepers, Newcastle University and other interested partners to improve health, habitat and to promote the importance of bees.

So how can you help the humble bee?

- Plant bee friendly plants in your garden or allotment
- Use pesticides carefully and only when really necessary
- Thoroughly wash used honey jars before recycling. Honey brought in from overseas often contains spores of a bacterial disease which, whilst not dangerous to humans, is fatal to honey bees.
- Treat yourself to some locally produced honey.

Buzz, buzz!

Don't confuse bees for wasps. Although they can look similar the pictures show the differences. Wasps are very yellow and they can sting repeatedly, while bees can only sting once.



Bumble bee



Honey bee



Wasp

For more information visit our website

www.newcastle.gov.uk/bees

or email ournewcastle@newcastle.gov.uk