



**Soil & Water
Conservation District**

UMPQUA

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Where Would We Be Without The Honey Bee?

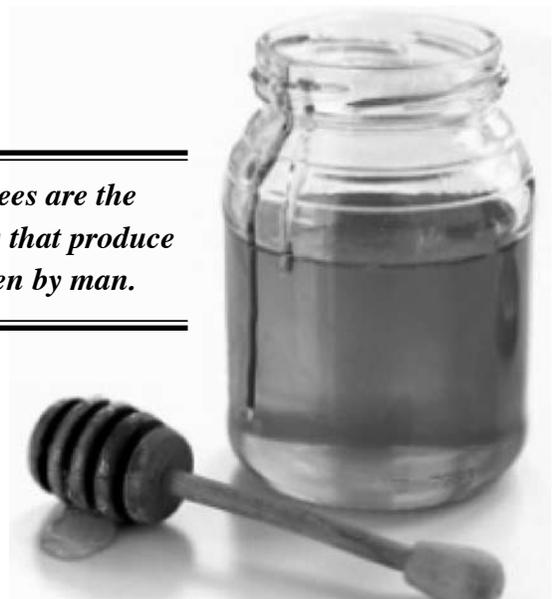
By Rhonda Black, District Manager/Conservation Technician

To begin, without the honey bee there would be no honey. Honey, which is a natural sweetener, contains sixty-four calories per tablespoon, is sweeter than table sugar, and contains vitamins, minerals, protein, pollen, and antioxidants. Vitamins present in honey are B6, thiamin, niacin, riboflavin, pantothenic acid and certain amino acids. Minerals found in honey include calcium, copper, iron, magnesium, manganese, phosphorus, potassium, sodium and zinc.

The honey bee or *Apis mellifera* was brought to the United States from Europe by the early settlers. Since the arrival of the honey bee to North America the honey bee has become our most important managed pollinator. According to The National Academies, "Many farmers depend on honey bees, which they lease for specific seasons to pollinate crops." Honey bees pollinate one-

Unfortunately, honey bees are having a hard time surviving due to a condition called Colony Collapse Disorder or CCD. According to Pennsylvania State University, Colony Collapse Disorder is "...the most serious, die-off of honey bee colonies across the country... characterized by, sudden colony death with a lack of adult bees...honey and bee bread are usually present [in the hive] and there is often evidence of recent brood rearing... the queen and a small number of survivor bees may be present in the brood nest..." What causes Colony Collapse Disorder? No one really

Honey bees are the only insects that produce food eaten by man.



third of all the food we eat, from almonds to watermelon and everything in-between. The honey bee also pollinates livestock forages including alfalfa and clover. According to the Southeast Farm Press, "approximately 50,000 colonies of honey bees are used to pollinate alfalfa for seed. This seed is planted to grow alfalfa to harvest as hay and pellets...then fed to dairy cows that produce the milk that makes the ice cream. We are all linked. If the linkage is weak we all suffer."

knows for sure, but according to researchers at the University of California Davis a new class of insecticides called neonicotinoids used on commercial, ornamentals, and garden crops could be responsible. One neonicotinoid called Imidacloprid which can be found in many insecticide treatments is "... toxic to adult honey bees...

and can be found in the nectar and pollen produced by the treated plants." The dosage of Imidacloprid in the nectar and pollen cause the honey bees to become intoxicated. "Intoxicated bees are thought to fail to return to the hive from their foraging trips and the colonies dwindle."

According to the article [Helping Honeybees in Your Garden: Simple Steps Gardeners Can Take](#), start by planting flowers that attract bees which will supply honey bees with food, provide a shallow pan of

water for the honey bees to drink from, a temporary shelter such as a large bush in case honey bees get caught in the rain or wind, and sunning spots such as a rock where honey bees can warm themselves are all important things you can do to help improve the strength of the honeybee population while scientists work to solve the mystery of Colony Collapse Disorder.

Finally, eliminate or limit the use of insecticides. According to the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds if an insecticide solution is necessary a simple solution consisting of one tablespoon castile or liquid vegetable oil based soap combined with one tablespoon vegetable oil and one gallon of water misted on plants is enough to eliminate aphids and other damaging insects on plants.

Honey bees are the only insects that produce food eaten by man.

Albert Einstein once said, "If the honey bee becomes extinct, mankind will follow within four years."



Create a Pollinator Garden

By Laura Smith, Assistant Conservation Technician



Pollinators such as bees are essential to agriculture. While bees are currently facing a variety of threats to their hives, there is one simple thing that we can all do to help pollinators: prepare a “pollinator garden”. A pollinator garden can simply be a patch of flowers in your yard. If you don’t have a yard, you can plant flowers in pots or hanging baskets.

Every little patch of flowers provides food for some kind of pollinator, and these little patches add up to an enhanced pollinator habitat. You can take steps toward a pollinator garden this season by planting one or two flowering plants. Think of it as insurance for the future of our food crops!

Simple guidelines to follow when planting for pollinators:

1. **Plant native:** native plants are four times more attractive to native pollinators than other ornamental plants (according to Xerces society website.)

- 2. **Choose plants that bloom at different times:** this provides ongoing food and habitat throughout the growing season.
- 3. **Choose flowers that have a variety of shapes and colors:** different pollinators are attracted to different colors and shapes of flowers. The more varied your garden, the more varieties of pollinators you will attract.

Planting with a Specific Pollinator in Mind

Bees are fairly general pollinators, and will visit a wide variety of flowers. However, bees do have preferences. Recent studies have shown that bumble bees favorite color is violet. Searching out violet colored flowers allows the bees to find sweeter nectar.

Red flowers are often pollinated by hummingbirds, which show a strong preference for the color red, while bees cannot see the color red.

Butterflies are very specific pollinators,

often preferring only one genus or even a sole species of flower. The Western Tiger Swallowtail butterfly depends on black cottonwood trees (*Populus trichocarpa*) and various species of willow (*Salix*); while the Anise swallowtail prefers members of the carrot family such as fennel, dill, and parsley. Spring Azure and Brown Elphin butterflies depend on native kinnikinnick or bear berry (*Arctostaphylos uva ursi*). Painted lady and West Coast Lady butterflies prefer to feed on Holly hock (*Alcea rosea*).

Another tip for saving our pollinators: Avoid using pesticides (especially insecticides)! This is particularly important where the pesticides may come in contact with local pollinators (directly or indirectly.) Avoiding pesticides is also safer for your health.

Information from the Xerces Society website, www.livescience.com, <http://www.oregonzoo.org/butterfly>, <http://nature.berkeley.edu/urban-beegardens/gbt.html>

Native Plants for Pollinators:

Early Season Bloomers	Mid Season Bloomers	Late Bloomers
Red flowering Currant (<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>)*	Lupine (<i>Lupinus spp.</i>)	Goldenrod (<i>Solidago spp.</i>)
Yellow Flowering Currant (<i>Ribes aureum</i>)*	Larkspur (<i>Delphinium spp.</i>)	Aster (<i>Aster spp.</i>)
Rhododendron (<i>Rhododendron sp.</i>)	Penstemon (<i>Penstemon sp.</i>)	Pearly Everlasting (<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>)
Indian Plum (<i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i>)*	Fireweed (<i>Chamerion sp.</i>)	
Evergreen Huckleberry (<i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>)	Columbine (<i>Aquilegia spp.</i>)	
Bleeding heart (<i>Dicentra formosa</i>)	Yarrow (<i>Achillea millefolium</i>)	
Redwood Sorrel (<i>Oxalis oregana</i>)	California poppy (<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>)	
Spreading Phlox (<i>Phlox diffusa</i>)	Oregon Grape (<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>)	
	Wild Mock-Orange (<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>)	
	Nutka Rose (<i>Rosa nukana</i>)*	
	California lilac (<i>Ceanothus spp.</i>)	

* These plants also produce fruits that are a good food source for birds and other wildlife.

Non-Native Perennial Garden Plants for Pollinators

Early bloomers	Mid season bloomers	Late bloomers
Daphne (<i>Daphne odorata</i>)	Rosemary (<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>)	Russian sage (<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i>)
Sweet Box (<i>Sarcococca sp.</i>)	Lavender (<i>Lavandula spp.</i>)	Blanket flower (<i>Gaillardia spp.</i>)
Oriental Paper bush (<i>Edgworthia chrysantha</i>)	Borage (<i>Borago officinalis</i>)	Black eyed Susan (<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>)
	Pin Cushion Flower (<i>Scabiosa columbaria</i>)	Autumn Joy (<i>Sedum 'Autumn Joy'</i>)
	Cat mint (<i>Nepeta spp.</i>)	
	Coreopsis (<i>Coreopsis grandiflora</i>)	

About the District

The Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District was formed in 1953. The District’s boundaries encompass 600,000 acres of northwestern Douglas County and include the communities of Reedsport, Gardiner, Winchester Bay, Smith River, Tahkenitch Lake, Ash Valley, Scottsburg, Elkton and Kellogg.

A seven member Board of Directors elected in the general election serve without pay to administer District activities.

Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors

- King Phelps – Chair
- George Black – Vice Chair
- Tom Black – Secretary/Treasurer
- Rod Brandon
- Paul Dailey
- Bob Sharp

Meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. during daylight savings time and 6:00 p.m. during standard time. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend meetings, which are generally held at the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District office, located within the Reedsport Coffee House and Bistro, 2285 Longwood Drive in Reedsport.

SWCD Staff

- Rhonda Black – Conservation Technician/ District Manager
- Laura Smith – Assistant Conservation Technician

“The mission of the locally led Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District is to provide assistance to any individual, group, or agency in applying natural resource conservation practices for the wise use of their natural resources.”

HONEY CAKE RECIPE

Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 4 cups sifted flour
- 3 eggs
- 2 1/3 cups sugar
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1 1/2 cups sour cream
- 3 tablespoons grated orange rind
- 1 cup raisins
- powdered sugar for dusting



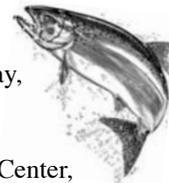
Directions:

1. In a small bowl sprinkle 1-tablespoon of flour over raisins and toss to coat.
2. In a large bowl sift together remaining flour, the baking soda, cloves and cinnamon.
3. Beat eggs and sugar in a bowl until fluffy.
4. Beat sour cream and honey into eggs and sugar mixture.
5. Add flour mixture to honey mixture and mix well.
6. Stir in raisins and orange rind.
7. Pour into a greased and floured 10" angel food cake pan.
8. Bake in a 325 degree oven for 75 minutes until cake pulls away from sides of the pan and springs back when lightly touched.
9. Cool pan on a wire rack for 5 minutes.
10. Run knife around inner and outer edges of cake.
11. Turn onto wire rack to cool completely.
12. Store covered at room temperature overnight or for at least 8-hours before cutting.
13. Sprinkle top of cake with powdered sugar and serve.



Umpqua Basin Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan Local Advisory Committee Meeting

Will be held Wednesday, May 12, 2010 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Sutherlin Community Center, 104 East Central in Sutherlin, Oregon.



The mission of the Umpqua Local Advisory Committee is "To reduce agriculture's contribution to all forms of water pollution to the minimum level possible consistent with economically sound and sustainable farming and ranching."



Beekeeping Workshops

are planned for Summer at the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District! Details to be announced.

Come Join Us At The Smith River Fair

The Smith River Fair will be held Sunday, August 22, 2010. The festivities will begin at 10:00 a.m. with a Beef Dinner being served around noon. For more information contact Dawn at 541-271-3222 or Brian at 541-271-2223.

See You at the Smith River Fair!

Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District Website

At the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District website you can find information about meetings, projects, directors, staff, newsletters, fact sheets, brochures, links to other useful sites and more as well a link to the Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District Facebook page. Become a fan of Umpqua Soil & Water today!

Take a look at our new website: www.umpquasoilandwater.com

You may even want to make it your home page!



Fish Friendlier Powdered Laundry Detergent

- 12 Cups Borax (*Hydrated Sodium Borate, Na2B4O7 · 10H2O*)
- 8 Cups Baking Soda (*Sodium Bicarbonate/NaHCO3*)
- 8 Cups Washing Soda (*Sodium Carbonate/Na2CO3*)
- 8 Cups Grated Bar Soap (*Ivory or any Castile Bar Soap*)

- Mix all ingredients well and store in a sealed tub.
- Use 1/8 cup of powder per full load.

Tips:

- Washing Soda and Borax can normally be found in the laundry and cleaning aisles of stores.
- Washing Soda also goes by the names: Soda Ash, Soda Crystals and Sal Soda. If you cannot find Washing Soda at your local store request the store order Washing Soda.
- Castile Soap is a mild, hard soap made from fats and oils, often olive oil.
- Always test delicate fabrics for colorfastness.
- Remember, these cleaning products are chemicals.



~Powdered Laundry Detergent Recipe from: www.tipnut.com

Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District

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Email: rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com

Website: www.umpquasoilandwater.com

How to Find Us:

If going north on Highway 101 take the first right onto Longwood Drive just as you enter Reedsport. For reference, the Reedsport High School will be across the street. Then turn right into the Reedsport Coffee House and Bistro parking lot. Come on inside and visit us at the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District office.

If going south on Highway 101 drive through the last stoplight in Reedsport. Turn into the last turning lane and turn left onto Longwood Drive. Then turn right into the Reedsport Coffee House and Bistro parking lot. Visit us upstairs at the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District office.

MEETINGS IN THE AREA

Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District

Meets every 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM during daylight savings time and 6:00 PM during standard time. Generally held at the Reedsport Coffee House and Bistro, 2285 Longwood Drive in Reedsport and occasionally held at the Elkton Community Education Center, 15850 Highway 38 West in Elkton. Contact Rhonda Black for information at (541) 662-1341 or email rhonda@umpquasoilandwater.com.

Smith River Watershed Council

Meets the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. Held at the Smith River Grange Hall, milepost #9 on Smith River Road. Contact Brian Swift for information at (541) 271-2223 or email swift@smithriverwatershed.org.

Gardiner/Reedsport/Winchester Bay Salmon Trout Enhancement Program

Meets every Wednesday at 8:00 AM. Held at the Gardiner hatchery at 76919 US Highway 101 North. Contact Dave Harris at (541) 271-4210.

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

OUR VISION STATEMENT

"To be a respected, valued community organization committed to managing the natural resources base for future generations. To ensure sustainable agricultural and forest production, supporting functioning human, wildlife, fish and forest habitat."

