

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR PLANTING FOR BEES

Many planting opportunities are available to the farmer. Some are listed below as a framework for planting for bees on a range of farm types such as cropping, sheep and beef, dairy, vineyards, and orchards.

Areas available for planting may include:

- Unproductive land (e.g. gullies, bluffs, steep slopes, wet and weedy land)
- Paddock corners
- Specimen trees in paddocks and stockyards
- Stream, pond and wetland margins
- Road and rail verges
- Stock laneways and avenues
- Shelterbelts and hedgerows
- Flower gardens, orchards, old homesteads
- Ground cover
- Remnant native bush
- Forestry plantations



Farmer working with beekeeper on fenceline planting.

“ Providing bee forage as part of your on-farm planting just makes good farming sense ”



[www.treesforbeesnz.org/HowToPlant](http://www.treesforbeesnz.org/HowToPlant)

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## How to plant Trees for Bees on farms



## WHY PLANT TREES FOR BEES ON FARMS?

Good nutrition for bees is the key to better pollination on farms. Bees need a reliable source of food throughout the year just like other animals so that they do not suffer nutritional stress which can result in weak bees and dying colonies. It is easy to encourage and support bees while also meeting other farm requirements by planting multi-purpose trees and shrubs that feed bees.

### Purpose of farm planting can include:

- Shelter
- Shade
- Land stabilisation
- Riparian/wetland protection
- Amenity/farm beautification
- Timber
- Firewood
- Tree crops
- Native bush protection and enrichment

### Site characteristics can vary in:

- Size and shape
- Location and exposure
- Soils and drainage
- Rainfall
- Access and serviceability

With so many reasons for planting trees and shrubs on farms, feeding bees can fit in perfectly by selecting plants that are also good pollen and nectar sources. For lists of good bee plants see [www.treesforbeesnz.org](http://www.treesforbeesnz.org).

## TIPS FOR PLANTING TREES FOR BEES

- Have an overall plan – consult nurseries or farm planting advisors and local beekeepers
- Make a flowering calendar of what bee plants you already have on site and then select plants to fill in pollen supply gaps
- Optimise bee nutrition by selecting the best plants with abundant pollen or nectar and reliable flowering times
- Use a mix of plants – some flower in the first year, others may take time to first flowering
- Stage the phases of the planting over time – only plant what you can manage, including ongoing maintenance
- Don't overcrowd – let the plants grow into the space for their mature size
- Have a plan for weed control and protect plants from stock and pests
- Be prepared to irrigate in dry weather



Farmer working with Trees for Bees farm planting advisor

## SUCCESSFUL TREES FOR BEES PLANTING

Before embarking on a planting programme on your farm for any purpose, including bees, you need to be aware of a number of factors.

### Factors to consider are:

- Site and climate
- Space available for planting
- Time, money and labour available
- Best time of year for planting
- Weediness of candidate plants
- Toxicity of candidate plants to animals
- Pests, such as goats, opossums and hares
- How the plants fit in with existing land use



Tree Protection System for stability with irrigation using NOVAFLO™ to deliver water if needed – see further information on [www.treesforbeesnz.org](http://www.treesforbeesnz.org)

### Key tasks for planting are:

- Preparing a planting plan
- Sourcing plants
- Preparing the site
  - Weed control
  - Soil cultivation
- Installing fencing/tree guards
- Controlling pests
- Irrigating as needed
- Planning long term maintenance