HOW CAN FARMERS HELP?

The key to good bee health is a continual supply of diverse pollen and nectar from natural floral sources.

So when you are choosing what to plant in waterway margins, windbreaks, field edges, under pivots and along roadsides you can now look for bee friendly trees and shrubs.

A number of shelter and erosion control plants also have abundant flowers to feed bees so selecting multi-purpose plants is smart farming for healthy bees.

FOR YOUR REGIONAL PLANT GUIDE

Download a PDF from our website.
www.fedfarm.org.nz/ourcampaigns

Or request a plant guide by contacting:
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"STRONG AND HEALTHY BEES ARE A CRITICAL PART OF PROFITABLE AGRICULTURE"

FEDERATED FARMERS OF NEW ZEALAND

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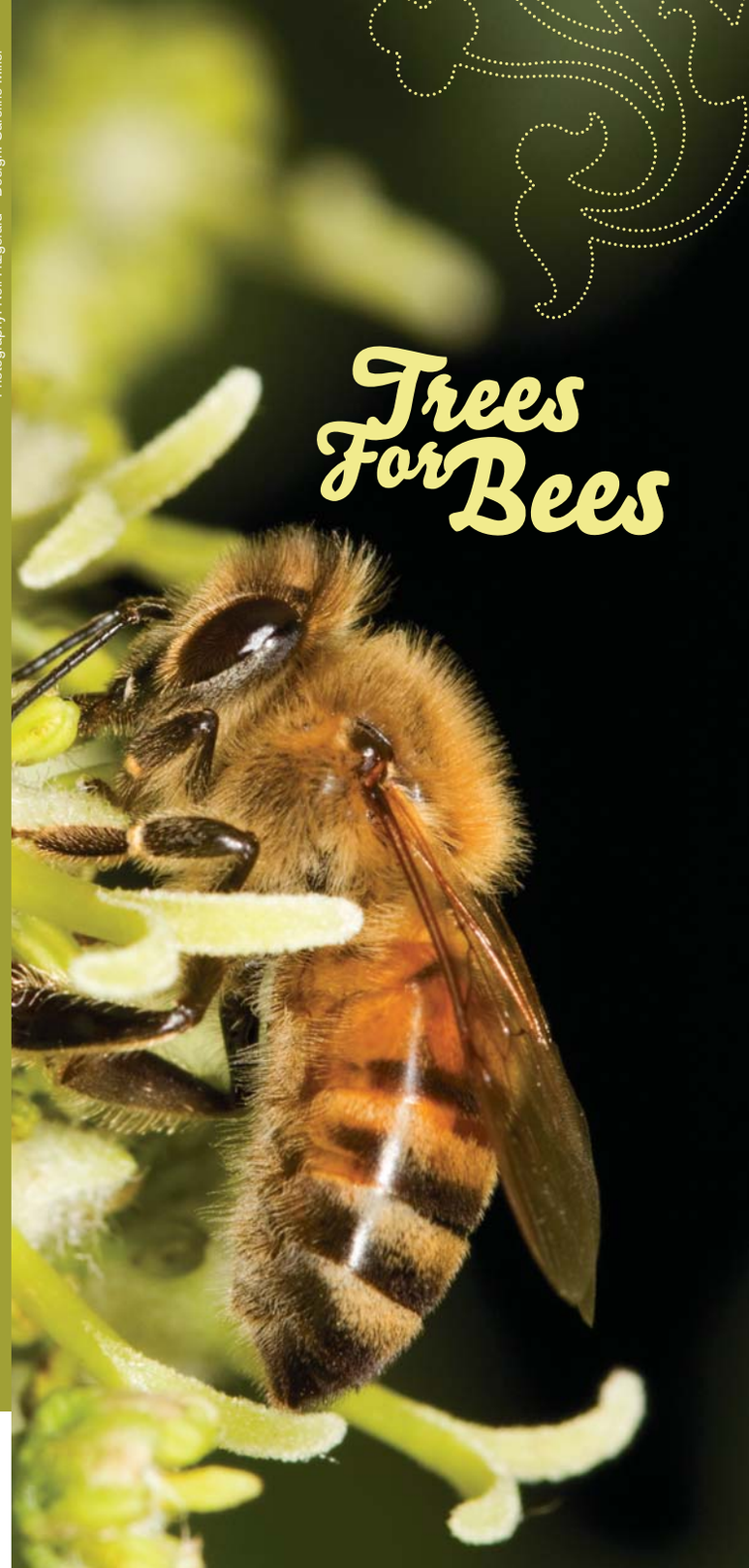
Photography: Neil Fitzgerald Design: Caroline Miller



Trees For Bees

SMART FARMING FOR HEALTHY BEES

THE FUTURE OF FARMING IS RELIANT ON ALL FARMERS PLAYING THEIR PART IN PROTECTING THE HONEY BEE.

WHY ARE **HONEY BEES** IMPORTANT?

The bee is one of the hardest workers in horticulture and agriculture; about $3 billion of our GDP is directly attributable to the intensive pollination of horticultural and specialty agricultural crops by bees.

Bees also contribute indirectly through the pollination of clover, sown as a nitrogen regeneration source for the land we farm. This benefits our meat export industry through livestock production and sale.

Of all the food we eat about a third of the calories and three-quarters of the diversity rely on bees for pollination.

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE BEES?

The honey bee is in trouble. Worldwide, bee numbers are declining. The bee is being attacked by an increasing number of bee pests (e.g. varroa mite) and diseases. Featuring prominently in this equation is the severe decline in floral nutrition resources creating a shortage of quality pollen for the bees to eat. Malnutrition severely compromises the bees' resistance to pests and diseases.

WHY SHOULD FARMERS HELP BEES?

The increasing importance of agricultural sustainability and food security for New Zealand is widely acknowledged. But not so the importance of the bee, they are the unspoken champion of agriculture and anchor farm viability in many instances.

Bees consume pollen as a protein and vitamin source and nectar for energy. While gathering these resources, they move pollen from one plant to another thus benefiting the farm by pollinating crops.

Availability of quality pollen resources is critical during spring when beekeepers are building up bee populations for pollination services. Any shortfall leads to weakened bees making them susceptible to pests and diseases. It also dramatically slows the queens breeding output and results in under performing pollination services.