

Bees are coming to the TBG

In response to the mounting public concern over the state of pollinator health in Canada and around the world, the Toronto Botanical Garden (TBG) is partnering with the Toronto Beekeepers Cooperative and Foodshare to bring two hives of honeybees to the TBG gardens.

Supported by the Toronto Beekeeper's Cooperative staff beekeeper and team of 50 member-beekeepers, the TBG will maintain a small bee yard designed to increase public awareness and appreciation for bees in the natural environment. This bee yard will be renovated to become a 'Pollinator Garden' where the public can learn about several varieties of native and non-native plants that provide forage for pollinators from April to October. TBG will use the construction of the hives as a learning opportunity for the public by providing workshops on hive construction, installation of hives and introduction of new colonies, and offer on-going interactive programs that support the bees with our co-operative partners and TBG students and volunteers. A 'class set' of beekeeping gear will be purchased and kept on site for these opportunities. The hives will become an educational centerpiece to discuss the importance of healthy habitats for pollinators in general, and healthy gardens for bees in particular.

Situated adjacent to and easily visible from the TBG's Weston Family Library, in the courtyard, visitors will be able to watch, participate, learn and read about these important pollinators and their role in a healthy ecosystem from various parts of the library and TBG building.

Generously supported by The Home Depot Canada Foundation.