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Fundacja Ekologiczna
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Good practice 5



Protection of insects in agriculture and gardening



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Bees ask for help - a campaign to protect the living environment of bees and other pollinators financed within the framework of the Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014.





Protection of insects in agriculture and gardening

The tireless work of bees is used primarily for agriculture and horticulture. Most vegetable products, fruits and vegetables are the source of food and manufacturers' base earnings we owe this small insects why it is so important to their existence and condition care not only beekeepers.

For each farmer who wishes to obtain a satisfactory effect of its work in the form of a sufficiently large yield of high quality, it is necessary to introduce such actions which improve the pollination of flowers on a plantation. The best action is the introduction of pollinating insects to the cultivation and use of reasonable protection of plants, safe for these particular organisms.

It is estimated that among the insects that pollinate crops and fruit, greatest importance has the honeybee. However, not every farmer / grower has its own apiary and bees ready to pollinate a flowering plantation. Wild bees take a great importance and among them bumblebees and red mason bee (*Osmia rufa*). These insects are a complement to honeybees. In particular, the high efficiency of pollination, ease of use sockets and a lack of aggressiveness towards people speak for the use of these insects in crops of fruit.

It is worth to take care of these insects by providing them food sources, seeding or planting within the plantation pollen/nectar giving flowering plants before or after flowering crops. Of great importance is the presence of an artificially created habitats for pollinating insects, in the form of bundles of reeds or wood blocks with drilled tunnels. We should also ensure the presence of grasslands, bounds and woodlots representing not only a shelter for wild pollinators but also for other beneficial organisms. This action is aimed not only to increase the number of pollinating insects in the environment but also enriches the biodiversity of the ecosystem.

The priority for action related to the protection of plants should be providing the safety of pollinating insects, especially during flowering of plantations, then located in the flowers nectar and pollen is a food for these organisms. At that time, any reckless action creates a deadly danger to these insects. Therefore is important to use chemical pesticides selectively and in accordance with the law and apply them according to the label use - in appropriate doses, dates and to the specified crops. Always should be considered a real threat by pests, which should be constantly updated, for example, by monitoring the plantation.

In 2013 it was initiated educational campaign „Building the population of pollinators” by company Sumi Agro Poland. The purpose of the campaign is to educate farmers and fruit farmers the importance of pollinators whose presence significantly affects the normal development of plants and their yield. One of the objectives is to familiarize agricultural producers with the methods of plants protection in such a way that it is safe to pollinating insects. In addition, the company provides houses with mason bee nest, and in some production orchards company set large boxes filled with reeds, inside which are placed cocoons of this wild bee. In many centers also take place consulting meetings where you can read the rules dealing with houses with wild bees, learn how to take care of them and how to grow these beneficial insects.



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