

# Protecting pollinators:

## Best management practices for foliar application



- **Always read the pesticide label and follow the label instructions.**
- **If the label indicates that the product may be toxic to bees:**
  - Be aware of hive locations.
  - Notify nearby beekeepers of plans to spray.
  - Avoid spraying when the crops (or weeds) are in bloom.
  - Spray in the early morning or evening when bees are less likely to be foraging.
- **Minimize spray drift:**
  - Check the weather forecast before application and be mindful of changing weather conditions during application in order to minimize drift.
  - Spray when temperatures are cool and/or humidity is high.
  - Do not spray in situations where temperature inversions may occur.
  - Spray when wind is blowing away from hives.
  - Use a low drift nozzle if possible and calibrate spray equipment regularly.
  - Use a medium-to-coarse droplet size if possible.
  - Install cones or shrouds on field sprayers to reduce off-field movement.
  - For air-blast sprayers, consider deflectors or turn off nozzles that are off target.
  - For aerial applications, ensure maximum boom width does not exceed 65 per cent of the wingspan.
  - Incorporate spray drift reduction agents into spray mixes to ensure consistent droplet size and on-target application.
- **Treat only the target area:**
  - Follow the buffer zone indicated on the label.
  - Shut off sprayers when turning at field ends, near large puddles or water sources, or near other environmentally sensitive areas.
  - Shut off nozzles if there are gaps in the crops.
- **Be mindful of the locations of bee-attractive forage close to the area you are treating. Just because the crop you are spraying isn't attractive to bees, doesn't mean bees aren't present.**

The BeeConnected app connects registered beekeepers with registered farmers and custom applicators, enabling two-way communication on the location of hives and anticipated pesticide application activities. For more information please visit [www.beeconnected.ca](http://www.beeconnected.ca).

For more information on pollinator health and best management practices, please visit [www.croplife.ca](http://www.croplife.ca).