

IT'S ALMOND POLLINATION SEASON!

PREPARE NOW Reap benefits at harvest

Pollination is the single most important factor for determining a good yield – and now's the time to ensure almond orchards remain a good and safe place for honey bees.

6 STEPS To Be Ready

Create a Communication Chain

Establish clear communication among those involved in pollination and pest management to make sure everyone meets performance responsibilities and reports information appropriately.

Set Grower-Beekeeper Expectations

Communicate with your beekeeper prior to almond bloom to set expectations and agree on pest control decisions.

Prepare for Arrival

Consider the optimal placement of each hive in your orchard. A general rule of thumb is two hives per acre that have an average of eight frames of bees with six-frame minimum hive strength.

Assess Hive Strength

Work with a third-party apiary inspector or the beekeeper to check bee hives as they arrive in the orchard for colony strength and confirm that other agreed upon parameters are met.

Plan Pest Management Applications

Avoid applying insecticides, with the exception of *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), during bloom. Fungicide application should occur in late afternoon or evening.

Plant Forage

Planting additional forage in or around your orchard is one of the best things you can do to boost bee health.