2021-2022 Seeds for Bees Impact Report

*Seeds for Bees* encourages the use of cover crops to increase the density, diversity, and duration of bee forage in California working lands, while improving soil health. The seed mixes available through Seeds for Bees are designed to bloom at critical times of the year when natural forage is scarce but managed honey bees and other resident pollinators are active. Seeds for Bees serves the needs of beekeepers and growers while increasing land and climate stewardship and biodiversity.

“Project Apis m. has facilitated a new way of doing the right thing. I see the results, so there is no way I will do farming without cover crops again.” - Seeds for Bees Participant

Honey Bee and Soil Health: Improving the lives of Pollinators and Producers, for Our Planet

Commercial beekeepers continue to experience historic colony losses while the demand to pollinate crops and produce honey is growing. At the same time, farmers are facing unprecedented global market and logistical challenges, rapidly changing consumer preferences on how food is grown, and battling historic cultural cost hikes. Seeds for Bees improves the lives of pollinators and producers by delivering a one-of-a-kind, field-proven solution to these current challenges.

With Seeds for Bees, producers can quickly and economically implement a cover crop program into their own working lands. Cover crop is one of the strongest climate-smart ag practices scientifically known to have beneficial impacts on pollinator health, water, greenhouse grass reduction, and even carbon sequestration. Our program brings much-needed biodiversity to many monocultural systems in California’s Central Valley, creating a win-win-win for pollinators, beekeepers, and farmers.

2021-2022 Seeds for Bees Metrics:

- 275 California growers planted over 11,500 acres of cover crop.
- 5 Seed mixes: PAm Pollinator Brassica Mix, PAm BioBuild3 Mix, PAm Annual Clover Mix, Grain-Vetch, and PAm Wildflower Mix.
- 96% will include cover crops in future management plans as a result of their participation in Seeds for Bees.
- 61% of growers believed that cover crop presented no change to their Water Use Efficiency (WUE) while 26% of growers believed that planting cover crop improved it.
- 79% of growers reported that participating in Seeds for Bees resulted in their increased engagement in honey bee best management practices, including modified pesticide application practices, providing fresh water for bees, and improved communication with beekeepers.
2021-2022 Seeds for Bees Funding Sources

- 18% Supply Chain
- 1% Beekeepers & Growers
- 21% Grower Purchased Seed
- 60% Corporate

Seeds for Bees Facilitates, Farmers & Growers Plant the Impact:

“Whilst providing for bees I also saw an increase in beneficial insects. I was also able to add organic matter to the soil.”

“This is our third year with Seeds for Bees and when the Mustard came up and the hum in the orchard was awesome! I could not believe that ALL these bees were on the Mustard a week ago, and now they’re all over these trees and there’s like thousands of them!”

“Appreciate your work and especially the knowledge and technical assistance that your staff provides. Thanks!”

“The bee activity has increased so much that the beekeeper can see the benefits.”

“Wonderful to see so much life in the orchard vs the semi-sterile environment of our usual orchards.”

“Thanks for this valuable program and the great service you provide to make it easy to provide habitat and forage for our bees.”

-(Grower Testimonials, 2021-2022)

Strategic Program Advances in 2021-2022

- Optimized scale of projects for efficient logistics, which lowered cost
- Accelerated delivery process to make possible 100% October planting
- New partners to offer seed drill access and measure carbon sequestration of seed mixes
- Strengthen Almond Strategic Partnerships
  - Almond Board, Blue Diamond Growers
  - Applied for $10m+ in grants with these partners
- Strategic Communications plan with new resources
  - New Quick Guide & Resources

Total Seeds for Bees Acres Planted: 63,000

Articles Published in Leading Industry Publications

8

Technical Assistance Phone Calls

275+

Honey Bee Colonies Pollinating Almonds in Seeds for Bees Participating Orchards

32,000+

Contact Us
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