

# Bee workshop

Understand bees to protect bees



## What's that buzzing?

Every child knows the honey bee. But in Austria, there are also about 700 different species of wild bee; the wild relatives of the honey bee. These include the hairy-footed flower bee, *Panurgus* spp. and plasterer bees, as well as the much loved bumblebee.

A large portion of our wild bee species live in open landscapes like meadows and dry grasslands. Here, they find nesting places which are warm and dry and have a rich variety of flowers. Wild bees do not actually need much to be happy: enough flowering plants with pollen and nectar to eat, appropriate nesting places to rear their larvae and materials for nest building.



## What wild bees do for us

Without bees, many of our foods would not exist. Whether it's fruit, vegetables, nuts, honey or herbs – many of these foods are dependent on pollination. An immense task carried out by honey bees and wild bees. However, our busy bees are in danger! The number of bee colonies is dropping dramatically and, of the more than 700 wild bee species which live here, half are endangered.

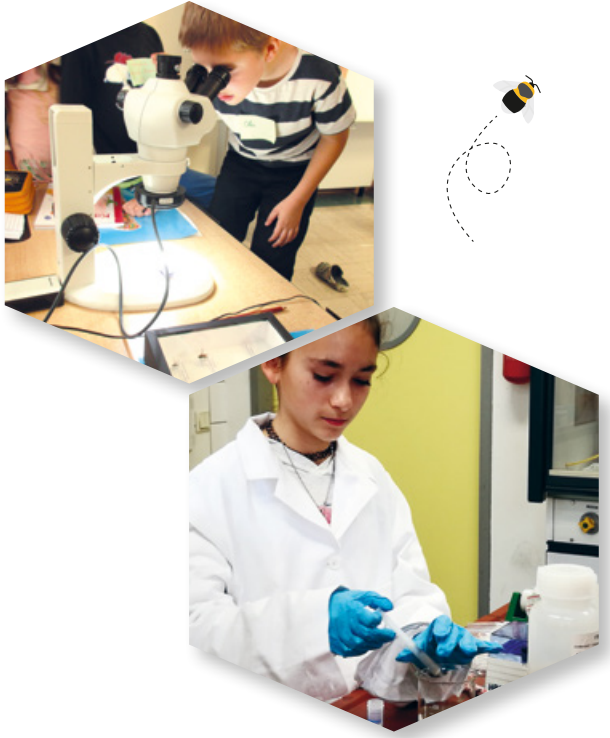


## The GLOBAL 2000-Bee Workshop

Together with the Environment Agency Austria and the organic apiary Apis-Z, GLOBAL 2000 founded the Talents Regional project "Bee Workshop: Meet the Bees" with school classes from the greater Vienna area. In interactive workshops, GLOBAL 2000 and its partners have taught more than 100 schoolchildren what sustainable environmental protection and conservation mean:

*If we want to ensure that our wild and cultivated plants continue to be pollinated, we not only need many bees, but also many different species of bee.*





## Schoolchildren investigate

The project also gave the schoolchildren the possibility to take on the role of scientists and do research on bumblebees in the wild.

With interdisciplinary access to chemistry, biology, conservation research and education, schoolchildren and experts together researched the effects of conventional agriculture and the use of pesticides on wild bees.

### Did you know that bumblebees

- work 18 hours per day, visiting 1000 flowers as they do?
- also fly in the rain?
- can see UV light and sense electrical fields?
- smell and feel with their antennae and hear with their legs?
- and that there are 46 different species of bumblebee here in Austria?

## Saving bumblebees made easy

Bee conservation begins in your own garden. A good rule of thumb: the more diverse it is, the more attractive it will be for insects.

- **Wild is good** – mown lawns are like deserts for bees. Leave a few wild corners in your garden. Nature knows
- **Go for native plants** – rather than planting exotic ornamental plants in the garden.
- **Grow culinary herbs** – these are tasty for both humans and wild bees.
- **Hands off the chemicals** – flowering plants should never be treated with insecticides, and systemic insecticide sticks which are put in the soil are pure poison for bees and butterflies!

At [www.global2000.at](http://www.global2000.at) you will find many more tips and alternatives for protecting plants without using poisons.



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