



## National Pest Management Association

### Pollinator Protection Best Management Practices for Structural Pest Management

1. Familiarize yourself with pollinator-attractive plants in [your area](#)<sup>‡</sup>, especially plants common around structures, and be able to determine what plants are in bloom. Remember that many plants produce small and/or cryptic flowers that are not readily apparent. Prior to application, service personnel are advised to perform an inspection of the property to locate flowering plants that are attractive to pollinators.
2. Do not make insecticide applications to the flowers or foliage of blooming plants, even weeds (unless specifically allowed by the label instructions). Careful application to other parts of the plant (trunk, stems, and roots) may be permissible if the label allows and pesticide residues will not be deposited on flowers or foliage during application.
3. Use caution while making any applications if managed hives are known to be nearby and when bees are foraging near the application site. The distance will vary and should be based on variables of the application including: weather, type of equipment, and application method. If managed hives are on the property, or adjacent to the property, communicate with your client and/or hive owner to consider moving, covering, or otherwise protecting hives prior to treatment. Check to see if your state has a registry or voluntary beehive location program to help communicate with beekeepers and locate beehives in areas in which you make treatments.
4. Be aware of environmental conditions before, during, and after treatment to keep insecticides where you intended to apply them. Account for wind conditions to prevent insecticides from drifting onto flowers when making spray or mist applications. Use low pressure, coarse spray application when possible to minimize drift. If wind conditions make spray and mist applications unwise, consider using a granular formulation if similar results can be achieved.
5. Pesticide applications may be necessary to eliminate feral bee colonies within or around structures if they pose a threat to human health or property. When reasonable, PMPs are encouraged to remove and relocate honey bee colonies or swarms from in and around structures but only if no insecticidal treatments have already been made. Identify local bee removal experts, beekeepers, or apiarists available that you can contact. To find a local listing, consult your state apiarist, department of agriculture, university extension website, or local beekeeping association.

**Note: This is document refers to structural pest management applications only.**

<sup>‡</sup><http://pollinator.org/guides.htm#guides>