

PROTECTING OUR POLLINATORS



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Your crop consultant is the key to pollinator safety when using agricultural chemicals. There are many factors that are involved in maintaining and promoting bees and other pollinators in a farm environment. By taking into account weather, growth stage of the crop, and application timing, and by using the correct application rate, potential risk to pollinators can be lessened or even prevented.

For example, bees are strongly attracted to citrus as a source of nectar. In California, protecting bees in citrus orchards involves each County Agricultural Commissioner restricting applications of certain products to citrus in their region from the time that bloom begins to petal fall, a period of between 10 and 30 days in a typical season. Consultants are required to know when bloom is declared in their area and what products can and cannot be used during that period. Communication between consultants, growers and beekeepers is of prime importance.

For all crops, consideration of the time of day for applications also helps to protect bees as they will not be foraging overnight or during the early morning hours, allowing time for applied materials to dry and dissipate before coming into contact with pollinators. Crop consultants are also expected to be mindful of the correct label rate of material to apply, as a heavy application can be harmful and an underapplication can be ineffective in achieving the desired results. Applicators share in this responsibility by ensuring that their equipment is properly calibrated and is performing at its best.

Knowledge of the agricultural ecosystem has expanded tremendously over the last 30 years with Cooperative Extension, growers, consultants and industry experts all adding to the wealth of resources available to keep pollinators safe and active in orchards and fields. Albaugh, LLC, is proud to support World Bee Day on May 20 and efforts to keep the bees that are so vital to our crops from harm. Through education, experienced sales teams, technical support and by offering the highest quality products, Albaugh is committed to preserving domestic and native pollinators for long term-grower success.

Resources

www.co.fresno.ca.us/departments/agricultural-commissioner/pollinator-protection-programs-dmi
www.cacitrusmutual.com/2019/03/28/bloom-declaration/
www.cacitrusmutual.com/2022/03/24/icymi-county-bloom-announcements/
www.agcomm.co.tulare.ca.us/pesticide-use-enforcement/citrus-bloom-update/
www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/legbills/calcode/030203.htm

