



# Strategies to increase almond pollination in South Australia

Increase native vegetation around your orchards to increase hive health and reduce pollination costs.

Almond production is 100% reliant upon pollination from European honeybees.

Each year, more than 200,000 managed honey bee hives are transported into commercial almond orchards at flowering times to assist the pollination process.

However, almond flowers don't provide an adequate food source for honeybees and beekeepers need to find additional sustenance for bees before, during and after pollination.

Recent research undertaken by the Securing Pollination project has shown:

- increasing the diversity and abundance of floral vegetation around almond orchards, particularly native vegetation which is utilised by all bee species, can enhance bee health and grow honeybee numbers
- reducing exposure to pesticides by spraying at night can avoid impacts to bees and support healthy bee populations
- native vegetation plantings around almond orchards increases biological control of aphids, mites and moths
- diverse and large-scale native vegetation plantings that flower throughout the year strengthen pollinator populations by providing an effective food source year round.

**Go to [www.pollin8.org.au/planting](http://www.pollin8.org.au/planting) to find out which species of native vegetation can sustain bees and improve pollination on your orchard.**

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