Water Sources

John A. Gaut Master Beekeeper, EAS

In a suburban setting, bees need to have a water source close to the hive so they do not forage for water on your neighbor's property. Most neighbors do not appreciate bees in their pool or birdbath. The water sources must always provide water for the bees. If the source is allowed to run dry, the bees will learn a new source and use it. If it's your neighbors pool, it will be very difficult to "re-train" them on your water source.

Here are several ways to provide water for your bees, "borrowed with pride" from other beekeepers.



Animal Watering Stations.

Fill these watering stations once a week so bees have a place to land and drink.

Birdbaths



One birdbath has marbles and ther other has moss and rocks. Water needs to be added daily to these.



Heated Bowl With Stones

The heated water bowl provides water when everything else is frozen.

The bottle of lemon grass oil sitting beside the bowl was enough to attract the water foragers. There was no need to put the lemon grass oil in the water.

Small Pond



A nice small pond near the bee hives.

Floating Flowers



Bees like floating flowers where they can land and drink.