



# UNDERSTANDING BEES: DON'T BEE AFRAID

## WHAT ARE POLLINATORS?

Pollination is the transfer of the pollen from one plant to another and is the way many plants reproduce (and create fruits, nuts, seeds, vegetables, etc.)

Bees, butterflies and other insects, birds, and bats are all pollinators.

## WHY DO WE CARE ABOUT BEES?

The Rusty Patched Bumblebee is the Minnesota state bee and is endangered. Other bees are at risk for endangerment as well. Bees are an important part of a healthy planet, without bees and other pollinators we wouldn't have flowers. or many foods that we eat!

## IT'S OKAY TO BE AFRAID OF BEES AND REMEMBER:

- They don't want to sting you and not all bees sting. Of the approximately 20,000 species of bees on the planet, around 500 don't have stingers
- See what happens if you are able to remain calm and not swat.
- They are curious about you, not out to hurt you. They may confuse you for a beehive or a flower if you smell sweet or are wearing bright colors

\*if you are allergic, follow the instructions of your doctor

## LEARN MORE:

- Watch the Bee movie
- Watch "The Power of Pollinators" from PBS on Youtube
- Watch the movie "A Bees Diary"
- Visit a pollinator garden
- Visit the library and read "Protecting Pollinators" or "The Mind of a Bee"
- Enjoy some honey!

## A BEE'S PERSPECTIVE

Imagine you're at the grocery store minding your business getting your favorite snacks, and all of a sudden a giant hand comes to smack you.

Scary right?

That is what a bee may experience when they are in a garden trying to pollinate.

Let the bees be! They are just doing their jobs.