

A close-up photograph of a sunflower head with bright yellow petals and green bracts. A small bee is flying in the background. The image is used as a background for a document cover.

CropLife
SOUTH AFRICA SUID-AFRIKA



CHARTER TO PROMOTE POLLINATOR SAFETY

Building Relationships between Pollinators, Crop Growers and the Crop Protection Industry – South Africa

THE CROP PROTECTION INDUSTRY AND GROWERS COLLECTIVELY UNDERTAKE TO:

Recommend or apply pesticides within an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programme

- Only recommend and apply pesticides when necessary
- Avoid pesticide recommendation or application when bees are foraging
- Avoid application during flowering / pollination periods
- Avoid using products that have long periods of residual activity that may be toxic to bees, especially during flowering

Only recommend and apply registered pesticides (under Act 36 of 1947) as prescribed by the label (refer to www.agri-intel.com)

- Pay particular attention to warnings and precautions regarding pollinators on product labels
- Use the recommended dose rate
- Use products according to registered application methods
- Only recommend aerial application when necessary and adhere to the Aerial Application Code of Conduct
- Do not apply pesticides when there is a danger of drift onto non-target areas
- Recommend and use drift-reduction application equipment and methods
- Ensure that application equipment is properly maintained and calibrated

Ensure that dust (resulting from treated seed) minimising measures are introduced according to the CropLife SA and SANSOR guidelines. This includes:

- Pour treated seeds carefully out of bags
- Do not shake dust or loose material from the bag
- Ensure that seeding machinery is properly calibrated and maintained to minimise dust losses
- Recommend seed film coatings that minimise dust
- Avoid spillage of treated seed and clean up spills

- Dispose of bags and other waste (including unused seed) properly
- Avoid contamination when cleaning equipment

Avoid contamination from spray liquids

- Take care when mixing and loading spray equipment
- Ensure proper disposal of waste and used material
- Clean up all spills
- Avoid contamination when cleaning equipment

Crop advisers must participate in, and comply with, the CropLife SA continuous professional development (CPD) programme and growers must insist on using a CropLife SA accredited crop adviser (refer to www.croplife.co.za)

In addition, growers undertake to:

Avoid spraying when bees are foraging unless absolutely necessary and only with products which are explicitly designed for bee-safe application during flowering

- Minimise sprays during the flowering period
- Sprays should preferably be applied after dusk
- Growers must control weeds in orchards before the weeds bloom to avoid bee-toxic herbicides impacting on foraging bees

Communicate with your local / contracted beekeepers

- Enter into a contractual agreement for pollination services or at least a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the commercial beekeeper
- Notify the beekeeper when an application is planned
- Highlight the planned spray programme when giving permission for beekeepers to put out their hives
- Only allow beekeepers who have your permission to place beehives on your property; discourage vagrant beekeeping



POLLINATORS AND BEE FARMERS UNDERTAKE TO:

Maintain compliance with statutory requirements in terms of Control Measure R858 Relating to Honeybees

- Register annually with DALRRD inspection services
- Mark all beehives with the DALRRD registration number
- Maintain proper records of all beekeeping activities
- Conduct regular inspections of beehives to ensure sound beekeeping management practices

Be a member of SABIO or a local beekeeper association

- Adhere to pollination guidelines as drafted by an organised industry body where applicable
- Allow SABIO or local beekeeping association to assist in communicating to the pollinator/grower details regarding the placement of marked beehives on landowner's property

Formalise the relationship with the grower and/or landowner

- Enter into a contractual agreement or at least a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for pollination services with the grower

Communicate with your local growers

- Notify growers formally when hives are placed on or close to their property
- Request a copy of the grower's proposed spray programme
- Do not place beehives on landowner's/grower's property without their permission

- Introduce precautionary measures to avoid the poisoning of hives
- Ensure that local farmers and landowners are aware of your night movements

Communicate with your fellow pollinators

- Respect the pollination arrangements between other pollinators and growers; do not encroach on others' contractual arrangements
- Liaise with other pollinators known to be operating on other farms

When placing hives for pollination, ensure that healthy colonies are placed in orchards and fields

- Ensure healthy queens with good brood patterns are utilised
- Do not introduce diseased or contaminated colonies into pollination areas
- Remove and replace any diseased or contaminated colonies during the pollination contract period
- Do not overwork hives

Introduce good hive management practices

- Only utilise strong, non-leaking beehives of Langstroth brood chamber design when providing pollination services
- Ensure suitable internal spacing requirements to reduce swarming tendency during pollination period
- Inspect bee activity regularly during pollination period
- Keep growers regularly informed and address any concerns during pollination period





www.grainsa.co.za



www.sabio.org.za



www.hortgro.co.za



www.samac.org.za



www.sansor.org



www.subtrop.co.za



www.citrusres.com



www.croplife.co.za



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