

Proud to Bee a 4-H'er

Proud to Bee a 4-H'er: FAQs

What is the *Proud to Bee a 4-H'er* campaign?

Proud to Bee a 4-H'er is a national initiative developed by 4-H Canada and Syngenta Canada. It was created to let 4-H'ers learn (by doing!) about Canada's bee pollinators and the vital role they play in creating a healthy ecosystem and a sustainable food supply. 2017 marks the fourth year for *Proud to Bee a 4-H'er*, and a big year for Canada as we celebrate our country's 150 birthday! We are very excited to continue our work supporting healthy pollinator communities and what better way to give back to YOUR community for Canada 150 than to grow a "beautiful" garden for our pollinator friends to enjoy. The first 150 clubs to register will receive 150 seed packets!

Who is Syngenta? Why has 4-H Canada partnered with them on this campaign?

Syngenta is a world-leading agribusiness committed to sustainable agriculture—farming with future generations in mind. With products in crop protection, seed care and seeds aimed at raising farm productivity, they are focused on helping bring plant potential to life. Syngenta Canada and 4-H Canada have a long and proud history of working together to advance shared interests in positive youth development, leadership, and communities.

What is Operation Pollinator?

Operation Pollinator is a Syngenta program focused on research and partnerships to promote the health and well-being of bees and other pollinators, given their essential role in agriculture and nature. The program's mandate is to support activities that enhance biodiversity, habitat, and other practical initiatives that contribute to healthy pollinator populations. The program originated in the United Kingdom and has since been expanded to several countries around the world. It includes both on-farm and off-farm components.

How does the *Proud to Bee a 4-H'er* campaign work?

Step 1: Join us - REGISTER!

4-H Canada will mail *Proud to Bee a 4-H'er* kits to those clubs that **sign up** to participate at www.4-h-canada.ca/proudtobee. You can register your club beginning on **March 01, 2017**. Registration closes **March 30, 2017 at 11:59pm EST**.

Step 2: Get out there and Bee active!

With your *Proud to Bee a 4-H'er* kit in hand, decide with your club what you want to do and get started!

- ✦ Celebrate Canada 150 by inviting members of your community to be a part of your Proud to Bee a 4-H'er planting activity. You can see if there are places in your community where you can plant larger gardens to help create bee friendly habitats. Sharing the positive impact of 4-H and your club's commitment to improving your community is a great way to engage others and give back during Canada's big year!
- ✦ Plant at home. Window boxes and planters are an option where you don't have a lot of space to plant.
- ✦ You can give seed packets as gifts to those who support your efforts as a club, or as gifts to prospective club members, encouraging them to come and join you in helping to support this initiative.
- ✦ You can sell seed packets to fundraise for your club.
- ✦ Make sure whatever you do, you are taking time to capture what you do – photos, video, and local media coverage will all come in handy for the next phase of the campaign!

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When can I expect my kit to arrive?

The *Proud to Bee a 4-H'er* kits will be mailed out at the end of March.

Who is supplying the bee-friendly garden seeds?

As in previous years, OSC Seeds (Ontario Seed Co., Limited) is supplying and packaging all seeds for the *Proud to Bee a 4-H'er* campaign. To learn more, visit www.oscseeds.com.

How do I plant the *Proud to Bee a 4-H'er* bee-friendly garden?

Instructions are provided on the outside of your seed packet. You can also find detailed planting instructions in your kit and available to download and print at www.4-h-canada.ca/proudtobee.

What kind of seeds are in the *Proud to Bee a 4-H'er* seed packets?

The contents of the *Proud to Bee a 4-H'er* seed packets are pollinator-friendly seed varieties. They are listed on the seed packet and include: black-eyed Susan, borage, butterfly weed, white clover, corn poppy, forget-me-not, blanket flower, lanceleaf coreopsis, lemon mint, New England aster, partridge pea, wild lupine, purple coneflower, sweet mignonette, and wild bergamot.

Are there any plants in the *Proud to Bee a 4-H'er* seed packets that are considered toxic to humans or animals?

Wild lupine is part of the *Proud to Bee a 4-H'er* seed mix, and is just one of many common plants that have some natural toxicity. Other such plants include bracken, daffodils, goldenrod, hyacinth, iris, lily of the valley, morning glory and sweet pea, to name a few.

Wild lupine is included in this seed mix because it is recognized as being of value to bees, including native bees such as bumblebees. Wild lupine is also common in wild and open spaces in many parts of Canada, North America and elsewhere in the world.

Toxicity in lupine is believed to result primarily from the alkaloid D-lupanine. Alkaloids are nitrogen-bearing alkaline chemicals that originate in plants. They are derived from amino acids, the building blocks of proteins. At least 40 per cent of all plant families include plants that are said to contain these compounds. Many plants contain different alkaloids. Some alkaloids are useful medicines; others are harmful. Most are bitter tasting. One common alkaloid, which many of us seek daily, is caffeine.

While wild lupine can be harmful to humans and animals, ingestion of a relatively large quantity over a brief time is generally required to see harmful effects. Wild lupine makes up less than four per cent of individual *Proud to Bee a 4-H'er* seed packets. However, it is recommended that *Proud to Bee a 4-H'er* seed packets be planted away from grazing livestock. Any plant known to be toxic to humans or animals should not be ingested.

Are the *Proud to Bee a 4-H'er* seeds perennials or annuals?

There are both perennial and annual plant seeds in the *Proud to Bee a 4-H'er* seed packets. **Annuals** complete their life cycle in one year. **Perennials** will keep growing for year after year. Some varieties can take a year or two to fully develop.

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When should I expect my bee pollinator garden plants to bloom?

Since there is a mix of seeds in the packet, the plants can be expected to bloom at different times throughout the growing season. This ensures that pollinators have a variety of plants at their disposal. Have fun tracking the growth times of your plants, and enjoy your ever-changing garden!



Who do I contact if I have more questions?

4-H Canada is happy to help you with any questions you may have. You can reach us at communications@4-h-canada.ca or 1-844-759-1013 x 132.

In Partnership:

