# **Project** Apis m.

#### Seeds for Bees Forage Program

# Benefits of Cover Crops

*Seeds for Bees* encourages the use of cover crops to increase the density, diversity, and duration of bee forage in California orchards, farms, and vineyards, while improving soil health. The seed mixes available through Seeds for Bees are designed to bloom at critical times of the year when natural forage is scarce but managed and native bees are active. Seeds for Bees serves the needs of bees, beekeepers, and growers, increasing sustainability of pollination and agriculture.



## Enhances Honey Bee Health and Vitality

- Enhances bee nutrition by increasing forage where bees need it most
- Improves bee nutrition by increasing forage diversity in orchards and farms
- Jumpstarts worker bee vitality to improve pollination potential
- Boosts bee's immune system and their ability to fight pathogens
- Reduces cost of hive management and pollination services



# Builds Sustainability

- Carbon sequestration/Carbon Farming
- Chemical free nematode suppression with mustards
- Chemical free suppression of navel orange worm
- Amends soil with non-fertilizer sources of nitrogen



## Improves Soil Health

- Increases organic matter and water availability
- Suppresses weeds and increases nitrogen
- Prevents erosion and improves water infiltration
- Supports mummy nut decomposition
- Attracts beneficial insects (IPM)

#### Supports Native Pollinators

- Increases forage for ground and cavity nesting native bee species
- Provides forage for non-bee pollinators like migrating Western monarch butterflies

#### We have committed our orchards to the program. This is a win-win relationship for the bees and our farming operations.

- Martin Hein

## Contact Us

Learn more about how planting cover crops can improve soil and honey bee health.

#### Billy Synk

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