

# Major Pollinators for Vegetables\*

Vegetable	Major Pollinators
Asparagus	Honey Bee
Bean	Bumble bees, Honey bees
Beets, Chard	Wind, hover flies, honey bees
Brassicas	Honey bees when warm, wild bees and flies in cooler weather
Carrot	334 species of insects; wild bees, solitary bees, wasps, yellow jackets
Celery	Honey bee
Corn	Wind
Cucumber	Honey bee must visit each flower at least 8 times for seed set
Eggplant	Bumble bees most probaby
Lettuce	Self pollinated
Muskmelons	Honey bee
Onion	267 species of insects reported as pollinators- most important are honey bees, hover flies, solitary bees, drone flies
Peas	Self pollinated
Pepper	More study needed
Pumpkins, squash	Wild bees with honey bees. In California the solitary squash bee plays important role and collects pollen before sun rises

Radish	Honey bee
Soybean	Mostly self pollinated
Spinach	Wind pollinated
Tomato	Flower transfers pollen through vibration- bumble bees, wind and people
Turnip	Honey bee
Watermelon	Honey bee with sweat bees, metallic sweat bees

"Seed yield can be dramatically increased by encouraging pollinators in the garden and on the farm. A study of carrots showed that 128 lbs. of seed were produced in an acre of carrots where no insects were allowed. In a field where only tiny insects were allowed, the yield in the carrot field increased to 453 lbs. Further results showed that in a field where all insects were allowed, over 711 lbs. of seed were produced." Craig Dremann

\* Source for this information: *Vegetable Seed Production in the San Francisco Bay Area*- Craig Dremann, Redwood City Seed Company.