Cox Printers - Increased the Honey Bee Population

Insect pollinators are responsible for 1 of every 3 bites of food that we eat. Pollinators are increasingly challenged by lack of good nutrition, places to nest and pesticides in today's agricultural, suburban and urban landscapes.

http://ento.psu.edu/pollinators/resources-and-outreach/bees-bugs-blooms-2013-a-pollinator-trial

Some of the features of Pollinator Gardens include:

- Native floral resources that bloom throughout the growing season so that there is always nectar and pollen available to pollinators
- Nesting habitat for pollinators
- Water resources
- These gardens also serve as a refuge from pesticide and other chemical exposure and provide a habitat with native plants.

Ellis, K. 2013. Identifying and Promoting Pollinator-Rewarding Herbaceous Perennial Plant Species. Final Report to Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. 16pp.

Currently at COX Printers, we have a total on 4 working beehives. The average peak population in the month of June is 60,000* adult bees.

http://articles.extension.org/pages/21747/seasonality-of-brood-and-adult-populations-basic-bee-biology-for-beekeepers

COX Printers' Measurable Results: 4 x 60,000 = 240,000 bees

Penn State Extension did a 3 year trial on entitled Bees, Bugs, Bloom Pollinator Trial, the Top Ten Plants for Total Pollinator Visits we identified. We have incorporated into our roof gardens 6 of the top pollinators:

#1 Pycnanthemum muticum
#2 Solidago rigida
#3 Eryngium yuccifolium
#6 Liatris microcephala
#8 Asclepias incarnata
#10 Aster laevis Bluebird (Symphyotrichum)

http://ento.psu.edu/publications/tables-1-and-2-top-plants-all-years