

Insect hotels to combat infestation and recover biodiversity

LOCATION: Lora del Rio (Seville)

DURATION: 1:46

SUMMARY:

Cortijo El Puerto is a ranch located in Lora del Rio, Seville, committed to ecological olive and almond tree farming. In their 122 hectares they have installed 14 insect hotels, panels built with natural materials that house wasps, lacewings, bees, bumblebees and ladybirds. Some of them help to pollinate the fields whilst others fight moths and louses, the main enemies to these farms. In this ranch everyone is looking to improve biodiversity.

VTR:

This is a hotel for insects. Here bees, wasps, lacewings and ladybirds live together. Benign insects that pollinate farms and fight infestations.

ENRIQUE DE LA TORRE Farmer

“Wood houses where they have different rooms. We made separated rooms and each room has all the features that insects like. For example, bamboo tubes or bricks with holes... It’s a place where they can reproduce or relax.”

And that’s how they invite the bees, who increase production as they pollinate. As do the ladybirds, and the lacewings. They combat the almond tree louse and the olive moths without needing chemicals

In the 122 hectares in Cortijo El Puerto, a ranch located in Lora del Rio, there are 14 hotels for insects. Here everyone is looking to encourage biodiversity and guarantee 100% ecological farming.

ENRIQUE DE LA TORRE Farmer

“And now we’re going to give them nectar, we’re going to give them pollen, we’re going to give them what they like to eat.”

That’s why they have planted diverse species of flowering vegetables laid out all year round, which gives them food and enriches the soil, and in the summer, lavender and sunflower. But that’s not all, these straw covers conserve the humidity and reduce the need to water. For Enrique, an aeronautical engineer committed to farming since 2013, ecology is a question of principles as well as efficiency.

ENRIQUE DE LA TORRE Farmer

“This type of agriculture is the future. So, a multidimensional agriculture, with lots of biodiversity which works to balance the ecosystems and once the ecosystems are levelling out they’ll keep working.”

Happy insects in their habitat is providing chemical free farming.

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