



# 2025

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Prepared by Bee Sweet Citrus Sustainability Manager, JD Freitas

## A SWEET YEAR

Bee Sweet Citrus is proud to share our 2025 sustainability achievements as we continue our journey toward responsible citrus production.

*Thanks for following along!*



# OUR ACTIVE EFFORTS

Bee Sweet Citrus is committed to growing, packing, and shipping fresh citrus while protecting the environment, empowering our team, and supporting the well-being of our communities.

Across our packing house and orchards, we emphasize efficient resource management, innovative waste solutions, and measurable progress. These efforts ensure we meet today's needs while building resilience for tomorrow's challenges in California's agricultural landscape.

**EFFICIENT  
RESOURCE  
USE**

**INNOVATIVE  
WASTE  
SOLUTIONS**

**MEASURABLE  
PROGRESS**





## ***Why is sustainability important at Bee Sweet Citrus?***

At Bee Sweet Citrus, sustainability is essential to our success because our ability to thrive depends on healthy soils. Without a healthy environment, we cannot grow, pack, or ship high-quality citrus to meet customer expectations and regulatory demands.

# **ENVIRONMENTAL WINS**

## **Massive Waste Diversion:**

In 2025, we diverted over 22 million pounds of low-quality citrus from landfills by sending it to local livestock operations for animal feed. This initiative keeps valuable resources circulating in the economy, drastically reduces methane emissions from decomposing waste, and demonstrates our commitment to a circular economy where nothing goes to waste.

## **Solar Power Leadership:**

We have over 4 megawatts of solar panels across the rooftops of our packing facility, harnessing the California sun to generate clean, renewable energy. This provides a substantial share of our power—enough to offset the electricity needs of hundreds of homes. This initiative lowers our Scope 2 emissions, reduces energy costs, and strengthens Bee Sweet's position as a leader in onsite renewable energy.

## Water Efficiency:

At Bee Sweet Citrus, we utilize drip irrigation and micro-sprinklers across all our orchards, significantly reducing the water required to grow our fruit. At our packing house, we achieved a 15% reduction in water use from 2023 to 2025 by installing low-flow spray nozzles on wash lines and utilizing our new state-of-the-art mandarin packing line. In drought-prone California, these upgrades help conserve precious groundwater, maintain exceptional fruit quality, and free up resources for surrounding farms and ecosystems.

## Soil Health Focus:

In 2025, we expanded our cover crop testing to select Central Valley orchards. We have cover crops on more than 1,000 acres at our Central Coast ranches to combat erosion, enhance biodiversity, and foster thriving soil microbiomes. Additionally, we're applying compost to most of our orchards—boosting organic matter and reducing dependence on synthetic inputs—to cultivate healthier, more resilient orchards that naturally sequester carbon.

## Recycling Champions:

In 2025, Bee Sweet Citrus recycled approximately 12 tons, or 24,000 pounds, of office paper and an impressive 688 tons, or 1.37 million pounds, of cardboard. By diverting these materials from landfills, we save trees, conserve energy, and reinforce a “reduce, reuse, recycle” culture that extends throughout our organization.

**22 MILLION+**  
**POUNDS DIVERTED FROM LANDFILLS**

**4 MEGAWATTS**

*Of Solar Panels on our Rooftops*

**15% REDUCTION**

*In our Water Use from 2023*

**1.37 MILLION LBS.**

*Of Cardboard Recycled*

**1,000+ ACRES**

*Of Cover Crops*



# ENVIRONMENTAL WINS *(cont.)*

## Fertilizer Reductions:

In 2025, Bee Sweet Citrus reduced nitrogen use by 35% for mandarins, 17% for oranges, 20% for lemons, and 27% for grapefruit per pound of fruit grown, compared to 2024 benchmarks. These achievements lowered potent N<sub>2</sub>O greenhouse gas emissions, reduced nutrient runoff into waterways, and advanced sustainable farming practices that help preserve soil fertility for future seasons.

## Orchard Renewal:

Bee Sweet Citrus took part in alternative-to-burning programs by chipping removed trees and returning the biomass to the soil as organic matter. This forward-thinking method prevents open-field burning and greenhouse gas emissions, enhances soil structure, and promotes nutrient cycling—transforming orchard replacement into a significant environmental benefit.

## Preventing HLB:

Our wash line in Nipomo, CA plays a vital role in controlling the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP), an invasive pest responsible for spreading the devastating citrus greening disease, Huanglongbing (HLB). By processing and treating fruit before it leaves San Luis Obispo County, our facility helps prevent the spread of ACP to other parts of California.



## Integrated Pest Management (IPM):

Bee Sweet's orchards implement a rigorous Integrated Pest Management program that emphasizes prevention and targeted action rather than widespread pesticide application. We deploy species-specific pheromones to interrupt pest mating cycles and deter harmful insects, effectively reducing pest pressure and minimizing dependence on conventional pesticides. By prioritizing monitoring, beneficial insects, and pheromone-based methods, we preserve fruit quality, protect pollinators and other beneficial species, and lower chemical exposure for our workers and neighboring communities.

# PEOPLE & SAFETY FIRST



## Employee-Driven Safety

Bee Sweet's Food Safety Department established a proactive Employee Safety Committee that meets monthly to identify and prioritize safety enhancements, empowering our 600+ peak-season team members to actively shape a safer and more responsive workplace.

## Injury Reductions

Over the past year, we achieved significant progress: recordable injuries dropped by 5% and time away from work decreased by 40% year-over-year. These results reflect our ongoing investment in training, modern equipment, and a safety-first culture that protects our people and ensures smooth operations.

## Food Safety Excellence

Additionally, we have achieved three consecutive years of perfect 100% PrimusGFS audit scores. This accomplishment highlights our unwavering commitment to food safety and guarantees that every piece of citrus arrives to our customers in pristine condition, from orchard to pack.



## Smarter Sanitation

Over the past two years, Bee Sweet Citrus has significantly reduced sanitation chemical usage and volume, maintaining exceptional cleanliness standards. This commitment safeguards employee health, ensures product quality, and protects the environment—achieving all this without compromising hygiene.

## Ethical Workplaces

We conduct annual SMETA audits to verify ethical labor practices, fair treatment, and robust workplace standards. This process reflects our belief that true sustainability values people and communities as much as it does the planet.



## OUR SUSTAINABILITY JOURNEY

Bee Sweet Citrus is dedicated to pioneering sustainable agriculture by implementing practical innovations with a long-term vision. From harnessing solar power at our packing house to cultivating healthier soils through the use of cover crops and compost, we continue to make consistent progress throughout our operations. By rigorously tracking greenhouse gas emissions, water usage, and waste, we measure our success and identify new opportunities for improvement. We set ambitious, science-based targets, anticipate emerging regulations, and learn from industry leaders to continually advance our reporting and practices.

These efforts—spanning energy, water, waste, soil health, pest management, and people—reduce our environmental footprint and build a more resilient business for our growers, dedicated employees, and the communities we serve. Customers can trust that choosing Bee Sweet Citrus means supporting premium fruit grown responsibly for a healthier planet and a brighter future.

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For more information regarding Bee Sweet's sustainability initiatives, please reach out to JD Freitas at: [jdf@beesweetcitrus.com](mailto:jdf@beesweetcitrus.com)

Thank you!

**Connect with us at:**  
[www.beesweetcitrus.com](http://www.beesweetcitrus.com) | [@beesweetcitrus](https://www.instagram.com/beesweetcitrus)