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Press Release

Beyond Toxics and Eugene food store to highlight link between pesticide threat to bees and potential for diminished food supply

Eugene, OR (8/15/2013) In honor of [National Honey Bee Day](#) on Saturday, August 17th, Beyond Toxics has teamed with Eugene's Sundance Natural Foods to raise public awareness about the plight of native and honey bees, which are dying from Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD).

Sundance will highlight the potential disruption of our food supply that the loss of the bees portends. On Saturday morning, Sundance will provide a visual demonstration of what the produce section might look like if bees were not around to pollinate crops: their produce manager will temporarily conceal the produce that would be directly affected by the loss of native and honey bees. (See list on page 2)

Bees all around the nation have been dying in large numbers. The recent [mass die-off of 50,000 bumble bees in a Portland suburb](#) was a case in point. That tragedy in Wilsonville, Oregon was directly tied to the use of Safari, a neonicotinoid pesticide that attacks the bees' central nervous system and causes confusion, paralysis and death.

From flowers to cashews, cherries to squash, cardamom to buckwheat, pollinators are integral to Oregon's economy. In fact, ***the USDA estimates that about one in every three bites of food and two-thirds of crops overall are made possible because of bee pollination.*** Both our environment and much of our food supply are closely tied to the welfare of bees, making the widespread decline in bee population a cause for serious concern.

A growing body of science** implicates neonicotinoid pesticides as a key factor in recent bee die-offs. Recent scientific review by European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) states that neonicotinoids pose an unacceptably high risk to bees. The European Union has put a 2-year ban on the most widely used neonics in an effort to protect bees.

Lisa Arkin, Executive Director of Beyond Toxics will be available at Sundance (748 E 24th Ave, Eugene, OR 97405) at 9:30 am on Saturday, August 17th to speak with reporters. For more information or to schedule an interview prior to Saturday, please call our office: **541-465-8860** or [email Lisa Arkin](#), Executive Director of Beyond Toxics.

Only foods that are considered primarily or entirely dependent on bee pollination are listed here. The list represents fresh and dried food, juices and nuts and spices in our local grocery stores and helps us better understand the wide variety of food that depends on the work of bees.

Foods primarily or entirely dependent on bee pollination

Allspice	Figs (black clam)
Almond	Jicama*
Apples	Kiwifruit
Apricot	Lemon
Artichokes*	Lime
Arugula*	Loquat
Avocado	Macadamia nut
Basil*	Melon (cantaloupe and honeydew)
Blackberry	Onion (all varieties)
Blueberry	Passion fruit
Bok Choy	Peach, Nectarine
Brazil nut	Pears
Broccoli	Plums (red and black)
Buckwheat	Quince
Cabbage	Radish (red, black, daikon)
Cardamom	Raspberry
Carrots	Rose hips
Cashew	Rowanberry
Cauliflower	Squash (all varieties)
Celery	Spearmint*
Cherry (sweet and sour)	Strawberry
Chives*	Tomatoes (most varieties)
Coriander	Tarragon*
Cucumber	Thyme*
Dill*	Turnip
Eggplant	Vanilla
Fennel	Watermelon

For more about our Friends of Healthy Bees campaign, please visit: www.SaveOregonBees.org.

* Requires bees to produce original seed

**“Two Studies Point to Common Pesticide as a Culprit in Declining Bee Colonies” (March 29, 2012, NY Times):
<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/30/science/neocotinoid-pesticides-play-a-role-in-bees-decline-2-studies-find.html>

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Beyond Toxics’ Mission

Beyond Toxics works to guarantee environmental protections and health for all communities and residents, regardless of their background, income or where their home is located. We expose root causes of toxic pollution and help communities find solutions that are appropriate to their needs.