

Contact: Lisa Arkin

Beyond Toxics

Phone 541-465-8860

info@beyondtoxics.org

www.BeyondToxics.org

Visit our [Press Kit page](#)



Press Release

Beyond Toxics and Oregon food stores join to highlight link between pesticide threat to bees and potential for diminished food supply

Eugene, OR (8/14/2013) In honor of this year's [National Honey Bee Day](#) on Saturday, August 17th, Beyond Toxics has teamed with four Oregon food stores to raise public awareness about the plight of native and honey bees, which are dying from Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD).

Sundance Natural Foods in Eugene; First Alternative Coop in Corvallis; Real Food Coop in Florence and People's Food Coop in Portland will all highlight the potential disruption of our food supply that the loss of the bees portends. On Saturday morning, all four food stores will provide a visual demonstration of what the produce section might look like if bees were not around to pollinate crops: each store will temporarily conceal the produce that would be directly affected by the loss of native and honey bees. (See list below)

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.

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

Allspice

Almond

Apples

Apricot

Artichokes*

Arugula*

Avocado

Basil*

Blackberry

Blueberry

Bok Choy

Brazil nut

Broccoli

Buckwheat

Cabbage

Cardamom

Carrots

Cashew

Cauliflower

Celery

Cherry, sweet

Cherry, sour

Chives*

Coriander

Cucumber

Dill*

Eggplant

Fennel

Figs (black clam)

Jicama*

Kiwifruit

Lemon

Lime

Loquat

Macadamia nut

Melon (cantaloupe and honeydew)

Onion (all varieties)

Passion fruit

Peach, Nectarine

Pears

Plums (red and black)

Quince

Radish (red, black, daikon)

Raspberry

Rose hips

Rowanberry

Squash (all varieties)

Spearmint*

Strawberry

Tomatoes (most varieties)

Tarragon*

Thyme*

Turnip

Vanilla

Watermelon

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 at 9:30 am on Saturday, August 17th to speak with reporters (748 E 24th Ave, Eugene, OR 97405). She will then be available at Noon at the Real Food Coop in Florence for a similar press event (1379 Rhododendron Drive, Florence, OR 97439). Between 10 and 11:30 am Corvallis food store, First Alternative Food Coop (1007 SE 3rd St, Corvallis, OR 97333) will host a similar press event organized by Jeff Schiminsky, Beyond Toxics representative and Coop member. People's Food Coop in Portland (3029 SE 21st Ave, Portland, OR 97202) will also host a press event and will be joined by Don Francis, Beyond Toxics member and owner of [EcoTech, LLC](#), and Madelyn Mickelberry Morris, Portland area bee expert and owner of [Mickelberry Gardens](#) will be available for questions from the press at 10 am.

For more, please call our office: 541-465-8860 or [email Lisa Arkin](#), Executive Director of Beyond Toxics.

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>

#####

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.