

A threat to bees is a threat to our food!



1 The Threat

- * America's bee population is struggling. During the last five years, beekeepers have lost more than 30% of their hives annually. While many factors may contribute to this die-off, significant evidence links the use of a certain class of nicotine-derived pesticides, *neonicotinoids*, with the loss of bees.
- * Neonicotinoid insecticides have been linked to harm and death in honey bees, bumble bees, butterflies, birds and aquatic organisms. The threat has already hit hard in Oregon when over 60,000 bumble bees died from landscaping applications in Wilsonville and Hillsboro last summer.
- * The US Geological Survey has found neonicotinoid insecticides in America's streams and rivers, disrupting all levels of the food chain.
- * The European Union has already placed a 2-year ban on neonicotinoid insecticides while it conducts in-depth studies on neonicotinoid insecticides and their link to the fate of bees.

2 Potential Impacts to Oregon's Food and Economy

- * Oregon could face potential losses of well over \$600 million in agricultural production if bees continue to decline.
- * The value of Oregon's honey production is worth over \$4 million annually.
- * These figures do not take into account value-added products produced from fruit, vegetables and honey dependent on bees (juices, applesauce, jams, confections, cosmetics, beeswax, etc.).

3 Get Involved!

- * Learn about how you can cultivate your own bee-friendly, sustainable garden by growing native plants that attract our pollinator friends and avoiding products poisonous to bees and butterflies. See our web site to learn more: www.SaveOregonBees.org/gardens/
- * Beyond Toxics and Oregon Sustainable Beekeepers have introduced a national petition directed at Home Depot and Lowe's, two of the nation's biggest retail sellers of neonic pesticides. We're asking them to stop selling these bee-killing pesticides to help prevent bee deaths. See our web site to sign it.
- * Local beekeepers are reporting significant losses of their bees. Thus, Beyond Toxics is working with City of Eugene officials to ensure that neonicotinoids are never used on city property. Call us to learn how you can volunteer in neighborhood parks to keep them toxics-free and bee-friendly: 541-465-8860.