

Contact, Beyond Toxics: Lisa Arkin, Executive Director

Phone: 541-465-8860

[info@beyondtoxics.org](mailto:info@beyondtoxics.org) | [www.BeyondToxics.org](http://www.BeyondToxics.org)

Or Andrew Bray: [info@beethinking.com](mailto:info@beethinking.com) | 877-325-2221

Press Kit: <http://www.beyondtoxics.org/resources/press-kit/>



## News Release

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### Local Hardware Store Acts to Protect Bees

*Portland store among the first to take bee-killing pesticides off shelves*

**PORTLAND, ORE.** -- The outlook for bee colonies is getting worse. A recent survey, funded in part by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, revealed that U.S. beekeepers lost over 42% of their colonies between April 2014 and April 2015, a significant upswing of losses from the previous year.

The situation may be more dramatic for native bees, such as bumble bees. The role of native bees in ecosystem balance is crucial because they pollinate over 70% of flowering plants, bushes and wildflowers.

Honey bees, critical pollinators for many of the world's food crops, are dying at such an alarming rate that millions around the world have taken notice. The implications are dire: nearly one-third of our food supply is in danger. The science clearly points to neonicotinoid pesticides as the leading cause behind bee colony collapse disorder.

Now, a Portland-based True Value store is stepping up to contribute to solving the bee decline problem. Hankin's True Value Hardware on Hawthorne has taken all products containing neonicotinoids off their shelves. Hankins also sponsors a honey bee hive and an organic garden on their urban property.

In contrast, the corporate offices of Ace and True Value have refused to act to protect bees, and will continue to sell bee-killing neonicotinoid pesticides until 2019. These corporations' lack of action puts more neonicotinoids into the environment, creating ever greater risks for pollinators. Oregon-based Beyond Toxics and other bee protection groups across the country are pressuring Ace and True Value to phase out the sale of these dangerous pollinator-killing chemicals in 2016.

Beyond Toxics and local beekeeping supplier, Bee Thinking are holding a community celebration to thank Hankin's Hardware on November 15. The gathering starts at 1:00 with a showing of the documentary, ***More than Honey*** at Bee Thinking, followed by a support rally we've called, "Thankin' Hankins!" Participants will start the walk at Bee Thinking and stroll the half block to the nearby Hankins Hardware store. Bee protection advocates will wear costumes and carry signs.

In the face of the risk to bees, some major retailers, including Lowes, Home Depot, BJ's Wholesale, and Whole Foods are taking measures to remove these bee-killing pesticides from their store shelves. Portland and other cities have already passed measures to limit or ban neonicotinoids.

Beyond Toxics works to guarantee environmental protections and health for all communities and residents. We expose root causes of toxic pollution and help communities find effective, lasting solutions.

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