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HD All B2

Larimore FFA Chapter

Pollinator Gardens: What All of the Buzz is About

North Dakota has seen a recent decline in honeybee and native bee populations, but with the help of local farmers and homeowners, these essential pollinators could make their comeback.

+two word

Although North Dakota was once an oasis for bees, recent land development leading to fewer wildflowers has resulted in the loss of 21-36% of honey bee populations each winter. Additionally, many of the 250 native bee species are dying due to ~~sub-lethal~~ pesticide levels which over time pose serious health risks. One such bee is the Rusty Patch Bumblebee which has not been found in North Dakota for the past two decades.

two words

Bees are an essential part of agriculture. According to Esther McGinnis, North Dakota State University Extension Horticulturist, pollinators contribute to \$15 million worth of crop production, and 75% of fruits, vegetables and nuts, including almonds, apples and squash, are pollinated by bees. Honey value is \$65-\$85 million, and North Dakota is the top honey producer in the United States, containing 500,000 colonies statewide.

Run-on

split up these thoughts

There are many ways we can save bees. When planting your garden, choose native wildflowers; native bee species are accustomed to these which will encourage pollination. Growing many different plants that bloom at different times throughout the spring, summer and fall is also a great technique because bees will find it worthwhile to travel to your garden, and it will provide them with food during three seasons. It is important to spray plants with the least toxic pesticides that are available, and do not spray blooming plants that bees may soon come in

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contact with because it may harm them. The best time to spray is in the evening, says McGinnis, because bees will typically be back in their hives during that time.

After you have created your garden, you can apply for a free Certified Pollinator Garden sign on the Master Gardener website. *Explain what this is.*

For more information on how to save our bee populations and instructions on how to build your own pollinator garden, visit the NDSU Extension Publication and select ^{website} Lawns, Gardens, and Trees.

We can save bees one garden at a time.