

What's ~~Been~~ Troubling Our Bees ?

Do you smell that? I can't either. I used to be able to stop and smell flowers all the time without any trouble. However, I haven't been able to lately. This is because bee colonies are decreasing incredibly. From 2007-2018 there has been a decrease of honeybee colonies ranging from 21~~%~~-36% in the winter months across the nation.

North Dakota is the ^{No.} #1 producer of honeybees with 500,000 colonies. In fact, we have 250 native bee species. Pollinators bring in a profit of over \$15 billion in crops. This is because bees pollinate approximately 75% of all fruits, nuts, and vegetables. Many species have already been declared endangered. Esther E. McGinnis stated that the rusty patch ^{what's her title?} used to be one of the biggest bee producers for North Dakota. Unfortunately, scientists haven't been able to find this bee in North Dakota in decades. Without bees, we won't have apples, blueberries, avocados, or even almonds for that matter. Rusty-patched bumble bee

This isn't just a problem in North Dakota. It has been happening ~~all~~ throughout the nation. This is ^{due to} ~~because there has been~~ an increase ⁱⁿ ~~of~~ varroa mites, too many diseases that bees are fatal to, the usage of subtle pesticide exposures, and a large lack ^{of} ~~or~~ forage and nutrition the bees need.

We can fix this problem by doing numerous things. Dr. ~~Esther E. McGinnis~~ suggests to plant ^{three} ~~3~~ or more species in large masses that are year ^{around} ~~round~~. We can also use ^{fewer} ~~less~~ toxic pesticides, especially on blooming plants. We all can start to spray pesticides in the evening.

Rugby FFA Chapter

Amy Volk

According to ~~Dr. Esther E.~~ McGinnis, "Our bees are more active in early hours, ~~so~~ if you can wait to spray in the evening that would be the best." *Quote not needed - paraphrase*

If we don't put a stop to these killer chemicals used on plants, we may not have any bees left. Bees are such an important factor in agriculture. Without them, agriculture would not be able to thrive. It would even decline.

We need to bring the cold, hard truth that honeybees are dying into the light. If we don't, the problem is going to get worse and worse until eventually all bee species are considered endangered or extinct. We can bring this out into the light by starting a conversation. If you want to increase your research on this problem, *"Bee-utiful Landscapes"* and *"Pollination in Vegetable Gardens and Backyard Fruits"* are incredible publications that have the cold, hard truth and how we can stop it.