

AD B&A

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Pollinator Gardens to Keep Our State Number One

← avoid use of exclamation points

Buzz on into the glorious understanding of pollinator gardens! Pollinator gardens are ~~gardens~~ filled with a large variety of plants that are both native and ornamental. A pollinator garden is filled with plants that bloom in the early spring through to the late fall. Pollinator gardens are doing a crucial part in a big problem we are having in the wonderful state of North Dakota; a major decrease in the population of bees. Pollinator gardens do their part in maintaining a high bee population by providing nectar and pollen to the bees, which act as their carbohydrates and protein. By providing these "busy bees" with the right nutrients they, in return, also provide to the field of agriculture.

Repetition

From the years 2007-2018 there has been a 21-36% decrease ^{in the} of bee population during the winter season. One might be asking by now, "What is the big deal about bees?" well ^{we} pollinator bees bring in around \$15 billion in crops, ^{we} keep our crops healthy, and they do this while providing that delicious golden topping we all love so much: honey. These little buzzing bugs do a lot more than one may think, so it is crucial that people as groups or individuals also do their part in providing for the bees. "They need a successful patch of nature," says Dr. Esther E. McGinnis, an extension horticulturist at North Dakota State University (NDSU). A ~~mock~~ news conference took place at the North Dakota State FFA Conference on June 4th, on the NDSU campus, discussing the importance of bees and what one can do to ^{support them.} give it back to them.

A prairie would not be the same as a flat lawn

Bees are dying for many reasons, some we can control. As one may know, North Dakota is a large prairie containing state, with a lot of ~~vast flat lawns~~. These environments are great for other creatures, but not specifically the bee. Native bees and honey bees cannot obtain nutrients from the decline in flowers ~~our state is facing~~. North Dakota is ranked number one in honey production, and we owe this not necessarily to ourselves, but to the 250 species of bees that fly flower-to-flower. Many of the 250 species of bees are endangered. With endangered species we will not gain the ~~wonderful~~ benefits provided by the bee such as, the ranking of production, pollinated flowers, financial ~~incline~~ and, of course, the production of honey. The bees are calling for help and there are many ~~big and small~~ ways one ^{can} help!

Pollinator gardens are one of the best ways you can help the diverse species of bee live on! Giving the appropriate nutrients by planting ^{a mass} in mass and variety ^{helps} the bees ~~can~~ do their job. ~~The planting of other providing plants is a win-win to the producer and the consumer. Planting plants~~ such as the almond, tomato, or melons help the bees produce and pollinate, while also giving you a delicious treat to enjoy, as well. ^{reduce use} Reducing the spraying of pesticides or ^{use} using less pesticides is another ^{helpful} tip that Dr. Esther McGinnis shared, at the ~~mock news conference~~.

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you want additional information to help save the bees visit
~~If one did decide to take a stand to help the bees and wanted~~ additional information
~~they can visit~~ the NDSU website and search for more publications through the NDSU extension.
These further publications include a plant list, bee species list and information, an explanation
to any questions, and other helpful recourses. In addition to NDSU's publications, you can also
find the contact information of ~~Dr. Esther~~ McGinnis on the website. Visiting the website of
Master Gardens, one can fill out an online application to receive a free sign that states the
certification of a pollinator garden.

The decrease in bees needs a lot of help being this is a national problem, so get
encouraged to lend a helping 'wing' and save the bees!