

HD JK BH

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Scranton

### Save our precious bees

Look outside your window. Do you see beautiful flowers everywhere? No, because they are all gone. The bees have gone extinct, and they are no longer here to pollinate our flowers. The beautiful plants that were once all around us are just a memory now. This is the future if we do not begin to take action to save the bees. ~~Our bees are in danger, and we must protect them.~~

great attention getter

~~To begin,~~ there is a decline of bees across the world. The world has lost from 21-36 percent of the bee colonies from ~~the year~~ 2007 to 2018 during the winter months. The state of

North Dakota alone is home to 500,000 bee colonies. ~~This state~~ is the number one producer of honey in the United States. Bees are vital to the pollination of all our flowers, as you probably already know. They also aid in the production of crops, ~~in which they contribute to~~ \$15 billion of ~~our nation's crops. Not only that,~~ but they provide pollination for 75 percent of our fruits, nuts, and vegetables. Wouldn't it be tragic to lose this food source?

Redundant

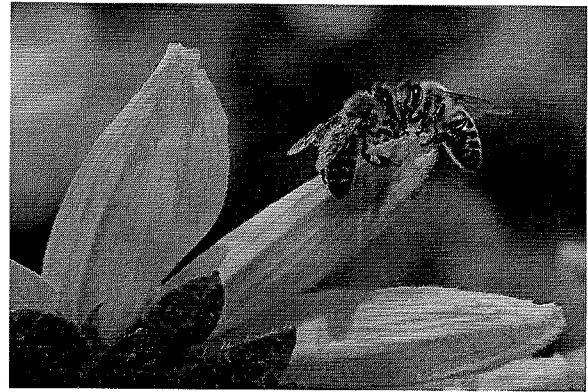
Avoid clauses to start sentences.

North Dakota

Contributing to in revenue.

also

~~To get more into the specifics,~~ there are 250 native bee species in the United States. The bees have been around for as long as humans have been here. A few examples of bees you may know are the bumble, leafcutter, mason, and sweat bees. A heartbreaking number of these species are in decline. One species, the rusty patch bumble bee, is even



endangered. It can no longer be found in North Dakota, and it is in great decline across the nation.

~~Now,~~ there is no single reason for the decline of our precious bees. It is a range of issues causing the decline. One of these contributors is a parasitic mite called the varroa mite. This little bug sucks the blood of bees, as a tick does to humans. They are dangerous to the bees as they can cause death or decreased health. Another ~~contribution to the decline of our bees~~ is disease. There

Contributor

are a range of viral and bacterial diseases that cause the declined health of the bees. A third reason for the decline of bees is caused by humans. We use many pesticides that can be harmful to this insect's health. ~~The sub-lethal~~ pesticides that humans use poison the bees, resulting in decreased health. A last cause of our bee decline is the lack of food. They rely on flowers for forage/nutrition. They collect nectar and pollen as food ~~also~~. There has been an increase in lawn size in the U.S., ~~and~~ there are fewer wildflowers. With the lack of these wildflowers, the bees are running out of food.

On the positive side, there are ways that you can help to save our precious bees. One way is to plant a pollinator garden. In this garden, you should plant native species, such as wildflowers, so that the bees have their main source of food. You should also plant a few



ornamental flowers in your garden to provide variety. Plant your garden in mass, so that there are always flowers present for the bees throughout all the seasons. For more help on planting your pollinator garden, obtain an NDSU Extension

Publication called Bee-utiful Landscapes: Building a Pollinator Garden. There are many helpful pointers to create a new home for the bees.

A few more ways that you can help improve the population of bees are to reduce spraying <sup>↑</sup> if possible, use less pesticides (or less toxic pesticides), avoid spraying blooming plants, ~~and try~~ ~~to~~ spray in the evening <sup>↑</sup> as bees are most active during the day.

In the big picture, it may not feel like you are doing much, but if everyone puts in just a little effort, the population of bees could build once again. Our precious bees are in need of our help to save them from extinction. Look outside your window again at all of the beautiful flowers. This is the future of our nation if we take a step now to save the bees.