

Bees in Distress

North Dakota bees are in trouble. Bee populations are experiencing high death ^{rates} losses for a variety of reason. But there is still hope for the bees, ~~and ways that they can be helped~~ ^{with the communities use}

exclamation points sparingly

Title should be capitalized

Bees are an important part of our state. North Dakota is home to over 500,000 bees, which produce enough honey to make North Dakota the leading honey producing state in the nation. Esther McGinnis, ^E extension ^H horticulturalist for North Dakota State Extension, ^{Service} estimated the value of the honey industry ~~in North Dakota~~ ^{the state} to be anywhere from \$65 million to \$85 million.

A bee's value is not just in honey production. Bees serve as pollinators, spreading the pollen of plants as they feast on the nectar found in flowering vegetation. Seventy-five percent of nut, fruit and vegetable crops need or greatly benefit from pollinators.

Bees in North Dakota are declining. According to Esther McGinnis, "Around 30 percent of managed colonies die each year." European honey bee colonies are not the only ones affected: Native species are also declining. The decline of both native and European colonies can be attributed to multiple causes.

Same thought as lead

Honey bee colonies have been facing hardships. The varroa mite, a blood sucking insect; disease, both viral and fungal; pesticides; and lack of forage all contribute to the downward trend in honey bee populations.

Re-format this sentence

Native bees are faced with many of the same problems. McGinnis said, "Historically, North Dakota has been an oasis [for bees] because of our wide expanses of prairie." Bees feed on flowers in bloom, and native prairies provide these flowers ^{from} ~~the entire season~~ spring through fall. However, large portions of the native North Dakotan prairie ^{have} ~~has~~ been broken up to pave the way for farming. Additionally, as farmers become better and better at controlling weeds in their

I would end the quote with this

fields, there are ^{fewer} ~~less and less~~ native flowers for bees to feed on. ~~But, there are ways to aid the~~
~~bees.~~

Bee populations can be helped. McGinnis encouraged everyone to plant flowers and ^{to help} ~~help~~
feed the bees. There are some tips to follow to make sure that bees can get the most use out of
your flowers and pollinator gardens. You should plant a variety of plants, to have some in bloom
~~all season long.~~ ^{from spring to fall.} Also, be sure to plant many flowers, ^{to help} ~~ensuring that the~~ bees can ~~see and~~ find your
plants ~~and that the trip to your flower garden is worth their time!~~

Another way to help out bee populations in North Dakota is to be wise with your
pesticides. Try to reduce your spraying, and use less toxic pesticides, ~~opting for natural~~
~~pesticides.~~ Avoid spraying blooming plants, ~~as~~ this will help prevent bringing bees into contact
with residuals left behind by the pesticides. Also consider the time of day you apply your
pesticides, ~~as~~ bees are more active in the morning, so spraying in the evening will help bees
avoid harmful pesticides.

There are publications available from ^{the} ~~NDSU~~ Extension about establishing and caring for
pollinator gardens. These publications can be found on NDSU's website in the ~~section of~~
~~publications on~~ lawn, gardens, and trees, ~~sections.~~

For more information on bees in distress and how to do your part to help them, contact
~~Esther~~ McGinnis by email at esther.mcginnis@ndsu.edu or by calling ~~her at~~ 701.231.7406.

Word
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