

Tackling The Bee Population Decline: Why You Need To Care And How You Can Help



There is a bee population crisis building around the world and while this may not seem like a big deal to the average person, the reality is that bees are incredibly important to our food production and overall environment. The rapidly declining population of bees is happening for a variety of reasons and there is no easy fix. However, home gardeners can make a difference in helping to protect bees and some of the steps they can take are pretty simple.

Pesticides are believed to be a key component in the bee population decrease

The New York Times explains that an issue called [colony collapse disorder](#) first started attracting attention in 2005. While the bee population has been dramatically reduced over the course of the past few years, it has been difficult to pinpoint the exact causes. Many researchers are pointing to pesticides, specifically neonicotinoids, as part of the problem.

The food population relies heavily on bees to pollinate crops, much more than the average consumer probably realizes. According to One Green Planet, approximately 90 percent of the crops in the United States benefit from [bee pollination](#), and those crops contribute approximately \$19 billion to the U.S. economy.

Consumers may see major shifts in product availability soon

While there are quite a few foods that will be seriously impacted if the bee population continues to decrease at its current rate, almonds will be one of the most severely hit. Almonds are a big crop in California in particular, and those crops amount to 80 percent of the almonds consumed around the world.

Pumpkins are also heavily reliant on bee pollination, as are cucumbers and onions. Other fruits such as apples, avocados, watermelon, peaches, blueberries, and oranges all depend on bees and both the availability and cost of these foods will likely shift substantially as the bee population decreases.

The bee population problem affects the entire world

In a world without bees, or with a continued reduction in the [bee population](#), the impact will be felt across six continents and at least 41 food crops, shares Yale Environment 360. People have heard quite a bit about the dying honeybee population, but the declines in wild bees is critically important to reverse as well.

In fact, Wired contends that the crisis impacting the numerous types of [wild bees](#) is the bigger crisis and should be considered an extremely urgent matter. Pesticides are believed to be part of the declining population issue, but mites, parasites, disease, habitat reductions, and climate change play a role too.

Individuals can make a difference at home

Many ordinary individuals feel compelled to take action to help the situation. In addition to avoiding pesticides, the Los Angeles Times suggests that home gardeners can [help the bees](#) by choosing single petal, non-hybrid plants over multi-petal plants. Wild lilac, California poppy, sunflowers, and lavender are a few plants that can be great to utilize.

[Create an urban garden](#) and keep the plants friendly to the bees in one area together. In addition, incorporate a variety of bloom times so bees have opportunities throughout the season. Interestingly, color matters too when choosing plants. Bees steer toward blue, purple, violet, white, and yellow, but may have a difficult time seeing reds.

Consumers may not notice big differences in product prices or availability in grocery stores yet. However, the declining bee population is soon going to have a critical impact on food production if things continue along the current patterns. Both honeybees and wild bees are facing issues and home gardeners can help these populations by choosing different types of plants and clustering them together to make it easy for the bees to find them. Home gardeners may not be able to fix this crisis by themselves, but they can certainly have a big impact as awareness builds and changes are made.

Another way you can support the bees is to buy organic and local produce, and support farmers markets like Salem NH Farmers Market.

[Image via [Pixabay](#)]

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