



NO BEES • NO FOOD • NO FUTURE



Beekeepers around the world have observed the mysterious and sudden disappearance of bees, and report unusually high rates of decline in honeybee colonies. Nearly one-third of all honeybees in the United States have perished in just a few years and honeybees pollinate one-third of all the food we eat.

Since 2006 a Colony Collapse Disorder has been affecting honey bees and we're not exactly sure what's causing it. Over the last few decades bees have seen an invasion of very dangerous foes. Parasites including *Acarapis Woodi* infect the breeding tubes in bees. *Varroa Destructor* reproduce in honey bee hives and feed on developing bee larva are only a couple major contributors to the collapse.

Over recent years new insecticides have been introduced that are deadly to bees. Neonicotinoids attack insects by harming their nervous systems and today they are the most widely used insecticides in the world. Bees come into contact with the toxin while collecting pollen or via contaminated water bringing the material into the hive which can slowly kill the whole colony.

This is a conundrum we have to solve if we want to continue living with a relative abundance and diversity of food. Humanity is deeply interconnected to Earth and other life forms on it. Being aware of the honey bee health is important!

TAKE ACTION: Contact your Congressman and local beekeepers association, sign pledges online plant bee friendly gardens and keep fresh water accessible. Visit our website wishcandle.com to find more important information.

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WISH

Words Inspired Secrets Held

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Bees Without Borders

“In the U.S., many farmers cannot rely on native bees or even local honeybees to sufficiently pollinate their vast swaths of cropland. Rather they rent honeybee hives from the 1,600 migratory beekeepers who traverse the country between February and November. This annual migration mingles the sick insects with the healthy ones and deprives bees of proper nourishment when on the road.” (Beeography - Scientific America)



Plant Native Flowers



Native flowers help feed your bees and are uniquely adapted to your region.

Plan for blooms season-round. Plant at least three different types of flowers to ensure blooms through as many seasons as possible, thus providing bees with a constant source of food. For example:

Cherry blossoms, sunflowers, roses, Lizard's tail, Rosin Weed, Sweet Goldenrod, Camellias, lavender, zinnias, sedum, and wild lilac to name a few.

Back Yard Beekeeping



Back Yard Beekeeping is becoming a more popular and less daunting act of kindness to our honeybee friends! Dadant.com provides great bee keeping information and supplies online.

Use organic and natural pesticides. However just because a product is labeled “organic,” doesn't mean it won't harm bees. Some non-toxic pesticides are garlic, kaolin clay, and gibberellic acid. You can help.