

Does your family pet provide you with one out of the three mouthfuls of food that you eat? Does your pet pollinate the flowers? Does your family pet provide you with honey? The honey bees (along with some other pollinators) do!!! Now, who is your best friend???

### What if we had that one bad winter?

#### THIS winter!

If we have strong, local populations of honey bees, our local food will be pollinated and we may be able to provide colonies to other farmers who must have honey bees.

We are creating bee safe havens for honey bees so they can survive and thrive and would love to have you join your neighbors in your own Bee Safe neighborhood. To join us, please see the pledge to the right.

### ARTICLES/INFO/LOCAL RESOURCES

#### Bees

“What Our World Would Look Like without Honeybees”, Business Insider, June 22, 2013.

“Mystery Malady Kills More Bees, Heightening Worry on Farms”, The New York Times, March 28, 2013

“19 Crops that Would Disappear Without Bees”, The Daily Meal, July 3, 2012

#### Beekeeping

Honey Bee Keep ([www.honeybeekeep.com](http://www.honeybeekeep.com))

#### Films

DVD: “Vanishing of the Bees” - documentary (2010)

#### Neonicotinoids/Systemics

“Neonicotinoid Pesticides Harm More than Just Honey Bees”, Nature World News, June 14, 2013.

#### Permaculture and More

Living Systems Institute - [www.livingsystemsinst.org](http://www.livingsystemsinst.org)

#### Local Seeds

Botanical Interests - [www.botanicalinterests.com](http://www.botanicalinterests.com)

### YOUR PLEDGE TO HELP THE BEES

You really can help the honey bees and other pollinators by doing any (or all) of the following things::

- 1) Use no poisons that contain systemic poisons: Acetamiprid, Clothianidin, Cyantraniliprole, Dinotefuran, Imidacloprid, Thiacloprid, Thiamethoxam and Sulfoxaflor are the main ones now prevalent. (Please go to the LSI website ([www.livingsystemsinst.org](http://www.livingsystemsinst.org)) to see a partial list of products that contain systemic poisons. Look on the label of any product you buy and make sure the active ingredient doesn't contain any of the chemicals listed above.)
- 2) Use no chemical poisons at all.
- 3) Plant seeds and/or plants/shrubs/trees in your yard and/or garden that will attract pollinators in the spring, summer and/or fall. (Please see the LSI website for a list of plants/shrubs/trees that are sure to attract pollinators.)
- 4) Volunteer to talk with your neighbors about the problems associated with the use of systemics.  
Contact your Bee Safe Neighborhood Coordinator:  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Allow Honey Bee Keep to put a swarm trap to attract honey bees in a tree in your yard. Cost is \$150 plus \$50 installation and a delivery fee or pick it up and mount it yourself. (Call Don at 303 248-6677)
- 6) Learn more about honeybees by reading articles on the Internet or through the library or attend an introduction to bees and beekeeping by a local beekeeper. For more info, see ([www.honeybeekeep.com](http://www.honeybeekeep.com))

PLEASE CIRCLE THE NUMBER/S OF EACH THING YOU CAN (AND WILL) DO TO HELP THE HONEY BEES

Your Bee Safe Neighborhood Coordinator will make a note of these items so you (and your family) will now be an important part of the Bee Safe Neighborhood or you may mail this brochure with your info back to LSI at the address below.

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Living Systems Institute (LSI)  
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LOSING EVEN  
MORE OF OUR  
HONEY BEES?  
YOU REALLY CAN HELP THEM!



**Bees are declining at such a fast rate that one bad winter could trigger an agricultural disaster.**

“Many neonicotinoid pesticides that are sold to homeowners for use on lawns and gardens do not have any mention of the risks to bees, and the label guidance for products used in agriculture is not always clear and consistent.” (The Xerces Society, 2012)

“Beekeepers and environmentalists have expressed growing concern about the impact of neonicotinoids (systemic poisons found in insecticides), concern based on the fact that neonicotinoids are absorbed into plant tissue and can be present in pollen and nectar making them toxic to pollinators. (“Are Neonicotinoids Killing Bees?”, The Xerces Society, 2012)

## WHAT'S HAPPENING TO OUR HONEYBEES?!

Since 1945, almost half the population of honeybees has been lost largely due to habitat reduction and the heavy use of toxic, chemical pesticides such as DDT on agricultural crops after WWII.

Though the use of DDT is now illegal, many new deadly chemicals have been invented, marketed and commercially sold and are now available not only to commercial farmers but to local gardeners at local garden stores and nurseries or through the hardware store chains.

Some of these chemicals are called neonicotinoids (or systemics) and beekeepers in many countries have identified them as particularly deadly and/or damaging to bees.

Neonicotinoids or systemics (please see the last page of the brochure for a list) work by making the whole plant AND the surrounding soil poisonous to ALL invertebrates. Even worse, the systemic chemicals accumulate in the soil for months and even years so any new plants introduced into the soil will become contaminated and can poison ALL invertebrates in the following months and years.

Honeybees are particularly susceptible to systemic poisoning because they live in colonies. When they return to the hive (their home), they bring back the poison with the pollen they have collected and it remains in their home where the majority of the colony spends the majority of their time.

Incredibly, "bee-friendly" plants AND potting soil are being sold that have been pre-treated with systemics. Labeling on the product does not inform the buyer of the consequences of systemics. People who buy these products think they are doing something to help the bees when they are actually poisoning them!!!

Neonicotinoids are being used aggressively in the treatment of seeds planted in agricultural fields. In 2012, 200 million acres of crop land were planted with pre-treated seeds, 94 million of those acres were for the corn crop. A single corn kernel with a 1,250 rate of neonicotinoid seed treatment contains enough active ingredient to kill over 80,000 bees.

The French nutritionist, John Pierre, has explained that we, humans, are really like big insects. If we poison the smaller bugs, we are also poisoning ourselves! The bugs don't need us to survive and the "bad" bugs will become resistant to every chemical invented. Yet, we humans can hardly live without the "good" insects like the honey bees!!!

## What Kind of World Do We Want to Leave For Our Children and Our Grandchildren?

Honey bees, among other pollinators such as bats, birds, butterflies, and bumblebees, are responsible in one way or another for the pollination of approximately 100 crops, according to Dr. Reese Halter, Ph.D., author of The Incomparable Honeybee, and distinguished conservation biologist. Below you will see a list of just some of the fruits, vegetables, nuts and seeds that would not exist without the pollination of the honey bees.

You Decide, You Choose

## TO HAVE BEES? OR NOT TO HAVE BEES?

### COMMERCIAL CROPS:



Almonds: California's 760,000 acres of almond fields require 1.5 million out-of-state bee colonies, which makes up 60% of the country's (commercial) beehives.

Apples: 350,100 acres were devoted to apple production in 2008 and one to two hives are required for each acre.

Melons: About 70,000 acres are used for melon production. One-half hive is required for each acre of watermelons and one to one and a half hives for each acre of muskmelons.



### FRUITS:



Blueberries, cherries, peaches, cranberries, grapefruit, oranges, pears and plums require honey bees for pollination.



### GARDENER'S FAVORITES:

Cucumbers, onions, raspberries, blackberries, cantaloupes, and pumpkins are all dependent upon the honey bees for pollination.

### FLOWERS, HONEY AND SEED:



Flowers: Bees seek flowers that are brightly colored (except for red), are aromatic, open in the daytime, are bilaterally symmetrical with a tubal structure full of nectar at the base.

Domestic Honey: 150 million pounds of honey is produced annually in USA, far below demand for 375 million pounds.

Sunflower Seeds: Honey bee colonies increase the seed yield of sunflowers.

