

# A threat to bees is a threat to our food!



## 1 The Threat

- \* America's bee population is struggling. During the last five years, beekeepers have lost more than 30% of their hives annually. While many factors may contribute to this die-off, significant evidence links the use of a certain class of nicotine-derived pesticides, *neonicotinoids*, with the loss of bees.
- \* Neonicotinoid insecticides have been linked to harm and death in honey bees, bumble bees, butterflies, birds and aquatic organisms. The threat has already hit hard in Oregon when over 60,000 bumble bees died from landscaping applications in Wilsonville and Hillsboro during the summer of 2013, and several thousand more in Eugene in June of the next year.
- \* The US Geological Survey has found neonicotinoid insecticides to be "mobile and persistent" in America's streams and rivers, disrupting all levels of the food chain.
- \* The European Union has placed a 2-year ban on neonicotinoid insecticides while it conducts in-depth studies on neonicotinoid insecticides and their link to the fate of bees.

## 2 Potential Impacts to Oregon's Food and Economy

- \* Oregon could face potential losses of well over \$600 million in agricultural production if bees continue to decline. The value of Oregon's honey production alone is worth over \$4 million annually.
- \* These figures do not take into account value-added products produced from fruit, vegetables and honey dependent on bees (juices, applesauce, jams, confections, cosmetics, beeswax, etc.).

## 3 Get Involved!

- \* Learn about how you can cultivate your own bee-friendly, sustainable garden by growing native plants that attract our pollinator friends and avoiding products poisonous to bees and butterflies. See our web site to learn more: <http://www.beyondtoxics.org/work/save-oregons-bees/>
- \* Beyond Toxics is working with municipalities throughout Oregon to adopt alternatives to neonicotinoid pesticides. Call us to get your community involved: 541-465-8860.
- \* JOIN US! Beyond Toxics is a member-funded non-profit that relies on your support for the work we do! Help us bee feisty and tenacious in our fight to Save Oregon's Bees!