

Loss of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators.



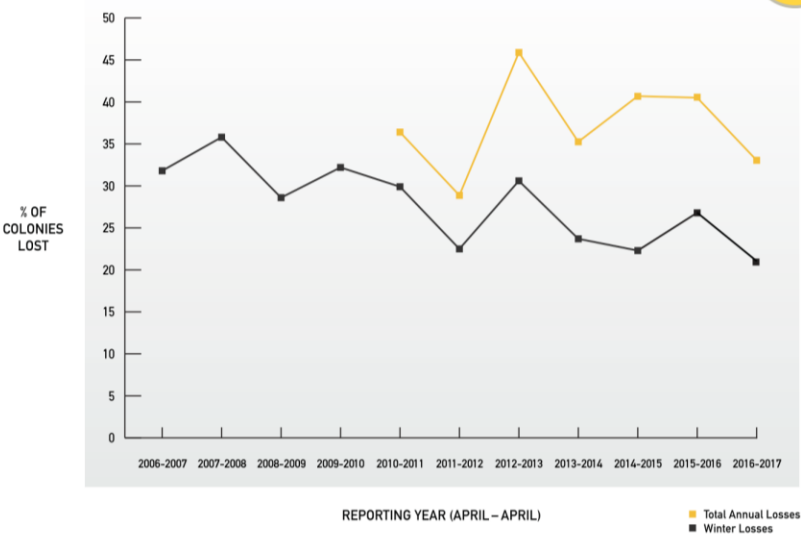
Driver:

- Increasing populations of the invasive varroa mite, a notorious pest of honey bees.
- Use (or misuse) of pesticides (nicotine-based clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiametoxam)
- Increased stress of bee colonies due to high demand and management processes.
- Reduction in wild habitats.
- Average monthly temperature increases can cause flowers to bloom earlier, resulting in a mismatch of when bees are ready to pollinate.
- Difference in global management standards (U.S and Europe).
- Links to air pollution and air quality.
- Important to note that not a single factor is responsible for this development but a combination of these factors that we have brought up.

Impact:

- A significant decline in food production across the whole continent of America.
- Decline in food production will consequently result in malnutrition in many (particularly developing), causing huge impact throughout South America.
- On the bees themselves: the pesticides affect them in different ways; experience sub-lethal systemic effects, development defects, weakness, and loss of orientation. Decreasing the quality of honey for human consumption.
- May lead to a vast difference in the production of groceries since we are dependent on the bees and their pollination.

NATIONAL LOSS OF HONEY BEE COLONIES



“...of the 100 crop species that provide 90% of the world’s food, over 70% are pollinated by bees.” (UN, 2011).

Image: National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), 2017.

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