



Burpee News Service – APRIL 2015

The Burpee Bee & Butterfly Brigade (BBBB) Project

FACT SHEET

The Solution: How to reverse the trend in pollinator population decline

- **Preservation and creation of pollinator habitats:**
 - Unused fields or unploughed farmland can be used to grow vegetation that will create a habitat for insects. This will encourage pollinator population growth, and will also benefit nearby crops.¹³
 - Consumers can create a bee friendly garden to encourage the growth and population of pollinators. These gardens should include a wide variety of plants that bloom throughout early spring and into late fall. As many native and local species as possible should be used.¹⁴
- **Reduced or no pesticide use:**
 - Farmers and gardeners should use only non-toxic and environmentally friendly methods of controlling weeds and insects.¹⁵ If pesticides must be used, careful consideration should be taken to apply during midday hours when bees are most frequently out foraging for nectar.¹⁶
 - Consumers without a farm or garden are able to impact pesticide use by shopping with intention. Shopping for products and produce that is pesticide free and/or certified organic will support businesses that are contributing toward the solution of colony collapse disorder.¹⁷
- **Research and resource allocation:**
 - Scientists believe that there is no one factor that causes Colony Collapse Disorder. "Every time a claim is made of finding a 'smoking gun,' further investigation has not been able to make the leap from a correlation to cause-and-effect. Other times, not even a scientific correlation has been demonstrated in the study claiming to have found 'the cause' of CCD," says a report from the USDA's Agricultural Research Service.
 - Additional resources, research and advocacy is needed to learn more about CCD and thus know more about additional solutions for this issue.

REFERENCES

- ¹³ http://www.unep.org/dewa/Portals/67/pdf/Global_Bee_Colony_Disorder_and_Threats_insect_pollinators.pdf Section 4.1
- ¹⁴ <http://www.nrdc.org/wildlife/animals/beegardens.asp>
- ¹⁵ http://www.unep.org/dewa/Portals/67/pdf/Global_Bee_Colony_Disorder_and_Threats_insect_pollinators.pdf Section 4.2
- ¹⁶ <http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=15572#pub>
- ¹⁷ <http://www.nrdc.org/wildlife/animals/beegardens.asp>
- ¹⁸ <http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=15572>
-

MEDIA CONTACT:

Mary Rochelle at maryr@freshideasgroup.com or call (720) 468-6166
Sarah Eykyn at sarah@freshideasgroup.com or call (205) 239-6445

