

NUTRITION

Why Are We Losing Our Bees

By Joseph Mercola, D.O.
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Talking Points

- ❖ Joseph Mercola (Mercola.org) examines what biologists call CCD – colony collapse disorder- and the loss of 20-60% of world-wide bee populations.
- ❖ A primary theory is that common farming insecticides called neonicotinoids, sprayed on the seed of the plants and present throughout their growing cycle, affect bees’ central nervous system, causing irreparable harm to their immune system. They then “fall prey to secondary, seemingly “natural” bee infections, such as parasites, mites, viruses, fungi and bacteria.” (65)
- ❖ The EPA approved use of neonicotinoids in the mid-2000, while some European countries have begun banning their use. The EPA acknowledges “pesticide poisoning,” but has been slow to act. Beekeepers and environmental groups have filed a lawsuit against the EPA for “its failure to protect bees from these toxic pesticides.” (65)
- ❖ Another hypothesis on the causes of CCD is the use of GMOs (genetically modified organisms) as food crops. In an effort to influence the direction of this research, Dr. Mercola tells us “Monsanto bought the company, called Beeologics, in September 2011, just months before Poland announced it would ban growing of Monsanto’s genetically modified MON 810 maize, noting, poignantly, that “pollen of this strain could have a harmful effect on bees.” (65)

10 Things You Can Do to Help Bees – from the makers of the film *Queen of the Sun*

- Plant bee-friendly flowers and flowering herbs.
- Weeds can be a good thing.
- Don't use chemicals or pesticides to treat your lawn or garden.
- Buy local, raw honey.
- Bees are thirsty. Put a small basin of water outside your home.
- Buy local, organic food from a farmer that you know.
- Learn how to be a beekeeper with sustainable practices. (Go to queenofthesun.com for the first steps)
- Understand that honeybees aren't out to get you.
- Share solutions with others in your community.
- Let congress know what you think.

Resources

Read Richard Shiffman's blog post on the buyout in the [Huffington Post](#). You might also be interested in Monsanto's [press release](#) on the buyout as well).

Tools and tips for [protecting honey bees](#)

Recent (7/29/13) scientific research on [bee loss](#)

You can choose to watch one of the recent documentaries – *Queen of the Sun* (\$4.99 streaming or <http://www.queenofthesun.com/store/dvd/> \$19.95) or *Vanishing Bees* (\$3.99 to stream and \$10 for DVD)

Find your state's beekeeper organization <http://www.honeyo.com/org-International.shtml>, <http://www.abfnet.org/>, <http://www.apimondia.org>