Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) of honeybees and to an extent, bumblebees, has been a hot topic among the media for several years now. Despite this, native bees have been ignored and taken granted for their pollination services. Like the honeybee, native bees too, have been facing population declines. However, unlike the European honeybee, the native bees have coevolved with the local flora and thus can have a huge impact on other native species within its ecosystem. (Perry 2012) What should and should not be done to contribute to the efforts of native bee conservation?

**Pesticide Control**

In the articles published by distinguished conservation organizations emphasize that pesticides should be dealt with. Among the documents I have read, there is an agreement that there needs to be strict regulation on the use of pesticide spraying, sometimes not even using pesticide at all. (Moisset and Buchmann 2011) (Pollinator Conservation in Minnesota and Wisconsin 2011) (Spivak, et al. 2011) (Vaughan and Hoffman Black, Pesticide Considerations For Native Bees In Agroforestry 2007) (Vaughan and Skinner, Using Farm Bill Programs for Pollinator Conservation 2008) However, the solutions proposed vary upon the circumstances. The USDA (2007) suggests farms to plant crops like hedgerows as a barrier against drifting pesticides. During a conference on making the metro Portland area pollinator friendly, members of the Xerxes Society suggested better regulation of pesticides on the state level, which federal regulations cannot control. (Minnerath 2012) Articles like these are very thorough and goal-oriented, with many beneficial reasons as to why pesticides need to be heavily regulated for the benefit of the bees.

**Providing Habitats**

Pollinator friendly habitats are a key way of bringing in and revitalizing native bee populations. Gordon W. Frankie et al. (2009) reported that urban gardens in various areas in California have been visited by diverse groups of native bees. Other sources have also encouraged similar things, suggesting planting gardens that grow flowers that are usually frequented by native pollinators. (Moisset and Buchmann 2011) (Perry 2012) (Spivak, et al. 2011) (Minnerath 2012) On a bulletin by the University of Maine, Constance S. Stubbs (2004) also writes a guide to building a bee nesting house in which he says “is an effective means of increasing populations of cavity-nesting bees”. These methods suggested can be done by any willing individual. Not only is it educational for the individual, it’s also a step towards helping the local ecosystem out as well.

**Are Honeybees a Problem as well?**

There have also been discussions on whether or not honeybees have been affecting the decline of certain native bee populations. For the most part, researchers consider honeybees as an invasive species, in which native bees have to compete against for resources. (Ginsberg 1983) (Jha and Vandermeer 2009) (Kim, Williams and Kremen 2006) (Schaffer, et al. 1983) (Thomson 2004) On the other hand, William M. Schaffer’s (1983) experiment shows that it is possible for honeybees to be able to coexist with native bees, depending on the flower they are gathering resources from. Similarly, Howard S. Ginsberg’s (1983) study of bees foraging at an old field in Ithaca, NY shows that depending on the flowers, flight times of the bees, and various other factors, bees are able to go about their own business without facing population declines due to competition. The only issue with these two studies is that they are outdated. What held true between honeybees and native bees back then may not be the same today. If so, then which species of bee would conservationists side with when both populations are declining?

On the bright side, some of the causes that lead to honeybee and bumblebee CCD also lead to population declines of native bees. In this sense, if we are to resolve these causes, it can benefit both honeybees and native bees. There are still limitations in what we can do for both, and we must take that into consideration. In the articles I have looked over, many are looking towards saving the bees with similar ideas on how to do so. The Xerces Society has a great influence on this course of direction, actively finding ways to spread pollinator conservation awareness as well as research. As for my research, I will continue to focus on native bees and additional methods we can possibly take to help prevent their populations from declining.

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