

How you can help

- ✓ Support beekeepers by buying local honey
- ✓ Consider becoming a beekeeper
- ✓ Plant a pollinator garden
- ✓ Use less pesticides and use responsibly
- ✓ Support research at your state university



MAAREC, The Mid-Atlantic Apiculture Research and Extension Consortium, established in 1997, is a regional group focused on addressing the pest management crisis facing the beekeeping industry in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

*For more information,
visit the MAAREC web site:
MAAREC.psu.edu*



The Value of Honey Bees



Mid-Atlantic

Region

Honey Bee Pollinators



Honey bees are a critical component of our country's food supply. They are responsible for the pollination of more than 90 crops and one out of every three bites of food we eat.

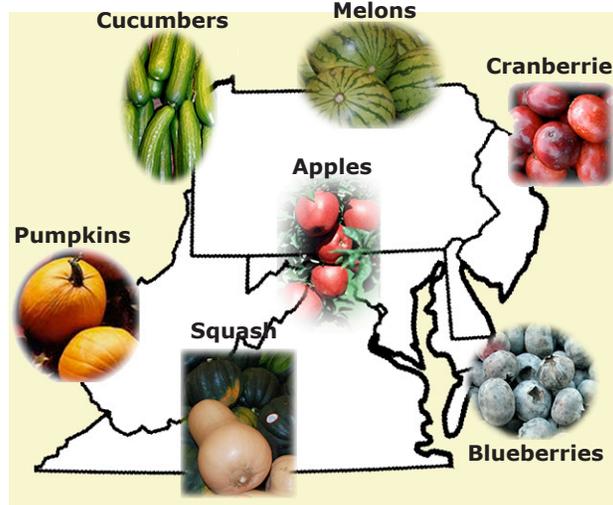
In order to perform their service as pollinators, beekeepers must prepare and move their colonies to crops at the time they are flowering.

Mid-Atlantic Region Statistics

- Approximately 7,000 beekeepers manage 113,000 honey bee colonies.*
- Each year approximately 4 million pounds of honey are produced valued at more than \$7 million.*
- The true value of honey bees is the work they do as the pollinators of many crops. These crops are valued at well over \$170 million.*
- **Of that amount, \$130 million is the value attributed specifically to honey bee pollination.**

*Data from MAAREC member Departments of Agriculture

Important Honey Bee Pollinated Crops in the Mid-Atlantic Region



Honey Bees as Well as Other Pollinators Are in Trouble

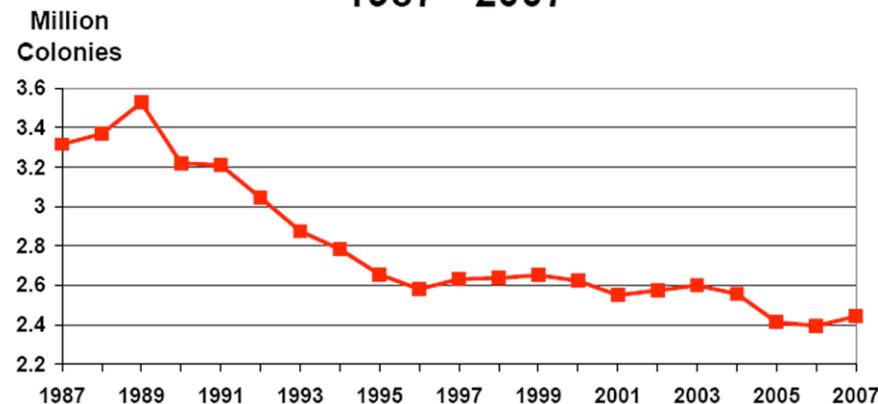
Beekeepers and scientists agree that the health of honey bees has been in decline for years, and the rate of decline appears to be accelerating.

A 2007 survey estimated a loss of about 1/3 of US honey bee colonies during the winter of 2006 - 2007.

In addition, a 2007 publication by the National Academy of Sciences documents a decline in many other North American pollinators.

- Likely reasons responsible for the decline in honey bee populations include:**
- ~ introduced parasitic mites
 - ~ disease
 - ~ pesticide exposure
 - ~ starvation
 - ~ a phenomenon known as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD)

Honey Producing Colonies United States 1987 - 2007



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