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Where have the honeybees gone?

Sapphire



Honeybees are disappearing from their colonies. California has lost 30-60% and Texas has lost 70% of their honeybees. Many states and provinces have less honeybees and this is called **Colony Collapse Disorder**.

Scientists believe that Colony Collapse Disorder can be caused by colony overcrowding, climate change, draught (when everything is dry), disease, pesticides and stress. Honeybees are stressed because there are less bees to do the work so that leaves alot of work for fewer bees. In China and the United States, Colony Collapse Disorder is also caused by a virus called the *tobacco ring spot virus*. The virus is spread through pollen and now it is affecting bees. Scientists knew that honeybees can transfer the *tobacco ring spot virus* but they did not know that it could infect bees themselves instead of the plants they touch.

Insecticides are also shortening the lifespan of queen bees so it is reducing their ability to give birth to worker bees.

Why are honeybees so important?
Honeybees do more than make honey- they pollinate. They fly from flower to flower and bring pollen to other plants so they can produce seeds to make other plants. Honeybees help with the food cycle, the pollination spreads seeds for food to grow. Some of the foods that honeybees help with are: watermelons, canteloupes, plums, avocados, lettuce, onions, raspberries, pumpkins and broccoli. As you can see honeybees are important for the environment. Long live the honeybees!



1. Dogonews.com
"The mystery of the vanishing honeybees".

2. htekidsnews.com
"The secret death of bees"

3. Magazinescholastic.com
"The new buzz about honeybees"