

BUZZ KILL

INSIDE: Why America's honeybees are dying and how you can help!



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SIERRA CLUB

PETITION ENCLOSED FOR:

Ms Pamela Grow



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Dear Friend of the Environment,

“Bee-pocalypse” is very real.

It’s not science fiction. It’s science run amuck. And because I’ve seen a recent USDA report that found that 40 percent of honeybee colonies died in the past year alone...

...I’m afraid that we’re running out of time to save the bees.

Just a few years ago, beekeeper Jim Doan had a thriving business selling honey and leasing his bees to pollinate fruit and vegetable crops — until the day he found a massive pile of dead bees in front of his hives.

And he wasn’t alone. Since 2006, beekeepers across the country have been struck with a mysterious collapse of their colonies so severe scientists are rushing to study what they call “colony collapse disorder.”

This massive die-off is linked to exposure to neonicotinoids, a nerve-agent class of pesticides German chemical giant Bayer provides to seed companies to coat corn and soybean seeds to kill pests.

The trouble is, they kill bees, too.

And here’s the sting. If we lose our bees, we’ll lose more than honey.

We’ll lose our strawberries and avocados, peaches, pumpkins, and more than 140 fruits and vegetables that depend on hardworking honeybees for pollination.

~~We’ll lose an estimated \$15 billion dollars in agricultural revenue.~~

We’ll lose small family farms and local businesses.

And we’ll inch closer to a catastrophic “silent spring” without the buzzing of our bees.

But not if we can help it — and that’s why I’m writing to ask you to join us in our campaign to save the bees by doing three very simple things today:

- 1. Plant the seeds I’ve sent.** This mix of bee-friendly flower seeds has not been poisoned by neonicotinoids, so they’ll provide a safe source of food to help support our bee population.
- 2. Sign the enclosed petition to House Minority Leader, Nancy Pelosi,** urging her to use all the powers of her office to pass H.R.1284 — the *Saving America’s Pollinators Act of 2015*, to **suspend the use of bee-killing neonicotinoids immediately!**

(over, please)

3. Join the Sierra Club with a gift of just \$15 or more — an incredible bargain at less than a nickel a day — to support our efforts to save the bees, protect the environment, and stand up for beekeepers and small businesses across the nation.

One of the reasons I am reaching out to you is because I believe you care deeply about our planet.

Today, we face more threats to our existence than ever before. **Preventing Colony Collapse Disorder — the mass die-off of bees — could be an important step that has huge implications for our food chain and our future.**

We simply cannot survive if we lose 30 percent of our bees each year. They are directly responsible for roughly one out of every three bites of food that we consume.

Companies like Bayer routinely put their poison profits ahead of prudent stewardship of the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the creatures that play a role in the sustainability of our environment.

When presented with scientific evidence that neonicotinoids are responsible for the demise of the honeybee, European Union officials acted immediately to suspend most of the uses of neonicotinoids in 2013 until further research could be conducted.

The EPA claims the agency will review the situation in 2018.

And that could be way too late for the bees.

At the same time, the *Saving America's Pollinators Act of 2015* has stalled in the anti-environment-led House of Representatives, where it is languishing in a subcommittee far from public scrutiny.

That's why we need you to join with more than 2.4 million Sierra Club members and supporters. We need your strong voice, your passion, your power, and your membership to help us.

That's why I'd like you to take the seeds I've enclosed and plant them in your garden, on your deck, or in any green space you have available. By growing more bee-friendly plants, we can protect more bees.

Before long, we'll provide plenty of clean, healthy, unpoisoned food for bees. We'll regenerate the bees and the planet.

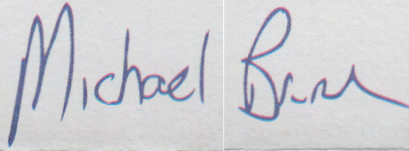
Becoming a Sierra Club member will do the same thing. With you on our side fighting for the bees and the trees, the wolves, the polar bears, and every other vulnerable or endangered species, we'll grow more powerful.

(next page, please)

And our Earth will regenerate and grow stronger, too.

Thank you for standing up for the bees. Please make a membership contribution and join Sierra Club as soon as possible — we have much work to do!

Sincerely,



Michael Brune
Executive Director

P.S. To put your gift to work immediately to help protect wildlife and wildlands, please go to www.SierraClub.org/SaveTheBees to join today!

P.P.S. Protecting our environment is a fight we can win if we stand together. But without you, we risk losing everything. Please sign the enclosed petition and return it with your contribution of \$15 or more to become a Sierra Club member today. **When you do, you'll receive your choice of a FREE Sierra Club Field Messenger Bag or Exploration Daypack as our thank you for your support.**



Your choice FREE!



And don't forget to plant your Bee Feed Flower Mix seeds today - a greener, healthier, bee-friendly environment starts with you.



Your first-class stamp will
save us much-needed funds.

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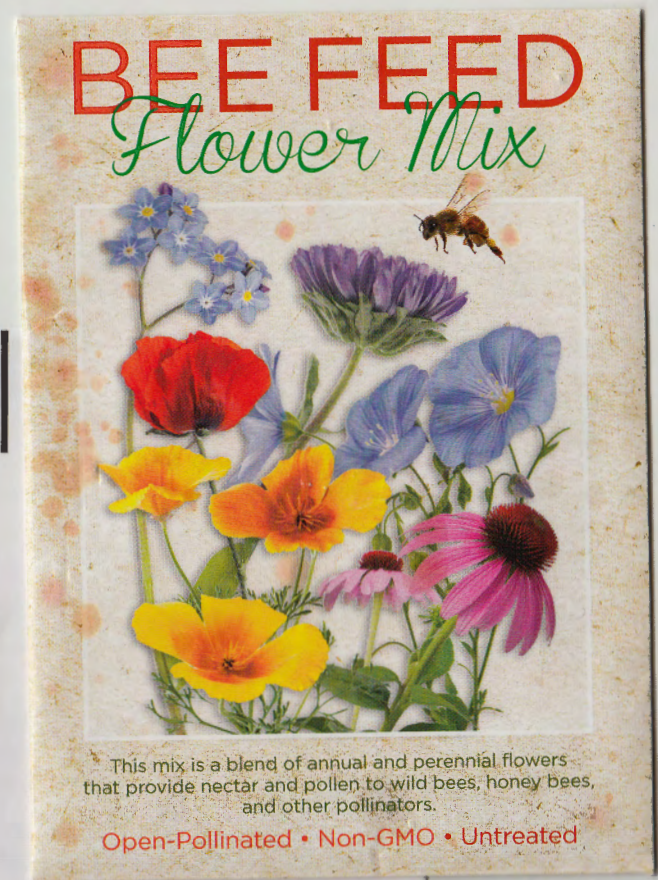
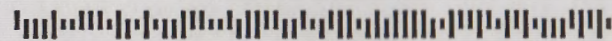
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The neonicotinoid link to the massive honeybee die-off

A recent U.S. Department of Agriculture study found that America's beekeepers lost 23 percent of their hives over the winter of 2013-2014. The culprit?

A widely-used class of neuro-toxic pesticides marketed by German chemical giant B

The surge in neonicotinoid use coincided closely with the honeybee population crash. In 2006, beekeepers began to notice that when their foraging bees left their colonies in search of pollen and nectar... they never come back.

That behavior is highly unusual for such a social insect. To leave the hive, queen, and brood behind is something that bees simply do not do.

We now know that neonics impair bee mobility, navigation, feeding behavior, foraging activity, memory, and learning. In short, the neonicotinoid pesticides disrupt everything a honeybee needs to survive.

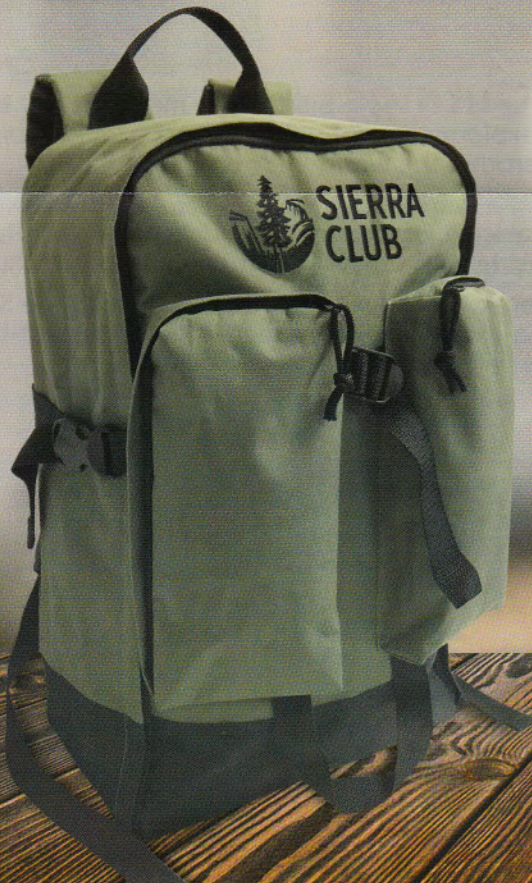
Your Choice FREE!

Join the Sierra Club at the introductory membership level or higher and receive your choice of EITHER the exclusive **Sierra Club Exploration Daypack OR Field Messenger Bag.**

Our Exploration Daypack, in dark sage green and black, measures a spacious 18-3/4" H x 11" W x 6-1/2" D. With a full zippered main compartment, padded adjustable shoulder straps and two carrying handles, this daypack also features two gusseted zippered front pockets, perfect for water bottle storage. Emblazoned with the Sierra Club logo, you'll find this daypack is ideal for any outing!

Our Field Messenger Bag, in olive khaki, is made of durable cotton canvas and measures 17" W x 11" H x 4" D. The large interior is fully-lined with a padded computer sleeve and secured with a full zipper closure, featuring custom Sierra Club pulls, under the double buckle flap.

Hurry, supplies of these stylish, bags are limited — join the Sierra Club today!



Please detach carefully.

Ms Pamela Grow
Member # 9775631



SIERRA CLUB
MEMBERSHIP CARD

JOIN TODAY!

It costs less than
a nickel a day
to become a
Sierra Club member and
help protect America's
wildlife and wildlands!



▼ Detach along perforation and return the bottom panels with your membership contribution. Thank you. ▼

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ACT NOW TO SAVE THE HONEYBEES!

YES, I want to help save the bees and the crops they pollinate. I have signed my petition to House Minority Leader, Nancy Pelosi, asking her to fast-track the *Saving America's Pollinators Act of 2015*. I have enclosed a membership contribution of:

\$15 Special Introductory Offer* \$25 \$35 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

**Pamela, with a gift of this amount or more, receive your choice of a FREE Sierra Club Field Messenger Bag OR Exploration Daypack!*



Field Messenger Bag Exploration Daypack

Ms Pamela Grow



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I have enclosed a membership contribution of \$15 or more. Please send me:

Field Messenger Bag Exploration Daypack

Please do NOT send me any free gifts. I'd like Sierra Club to use my entire gift to help protect the environment.

Contributions, gifts, and dues to Sierra Club are not tax-deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts.

Minimum membership dues are \$15.00. Your dues include \$7.50 for your subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

From time to time, we make our mailing list available to other worthy organizations. If you prefer that your name not be included, please check here.

Please detach the top panel of this form and return the remaining panels, including your signed petition and membership dues to:

Sierra Club • P.O. Box 421041 • Palm Coast, FL 32142-6417

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Join immediately at www.SierraClub.org/SaveTheBees



SIERRA CLUB

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Do not detach. We will deliver on your behalf.