

# HELP RESTORE POLLINATING NATIVE BEES

A study conducted by Sandra Rehan and Erika Tucker, Agricultural Experiment Station, University of New Hampshire, reports the following:

NH has at least 100 different native bee species

The two species most commonly caught in their study were Sweat Bees( 70 different species live here in NH) and the Eastern Bumble Bee.

Sweat Bees and Bumble Bees act to pollinate a wide variety of plants including Tomatoes, Apples, Milkweed, Clover, Cornflowers and many green house crops.

White clover attracts the largest abundance of bees while Red clover attracts the highest diversity of bees.

Increasing the diversity of early season blooming flowers is an important means of increasing the Native Bee population.

Construction of Bee Boxes, Wild Flower planting, leaving pasture and meadows UNMOWED are good ways to increase the numbers of healthy, pollinating bees including the Native Bees of NH

## FROM THE NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

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The Value of pollination to agriculture impacts crops that provide a wide variety of fruits and vegetables for humans and other animals consumption. These include apples, cherries, tomatoes, Blueberries, watermelon, and Zucchini. Seventy out of 100 major crops are pollinated by bees. However, the European Honey Bee has, since 2006, seen a collapse of 35-50% of ALL honey bee colonies in a single winter in the United States.

The Native Bee populations are an important means of compensating for the decline in the European honey bee population here in the US.

According to Rhea Suh, President of the Natural Resources Defense Council, Neonicotinoids, are known to have contributed to the decline in the bee population. These chemicals also kill native bees and should NOT be used where bee populations are needed. The Neonicotinoids kill butterflies which are also important pollinators. Read the labels on all insecticides you purchase and if they contain Neonicotinoids DO NOT BUY THEM. The consumer can affect the production of these insecticides. If we don't buy them the manufactures will quite making them.

Native bee populations can be increased by the construction and placement of Bee Houses such as those shown below. These can be made from inexpensive materials such as 1/2 inch diam. PVC , or bamboo or cedar blocks can be drilled and placed together. These should be placed 5 feet above the ground in trees where they will face the Morning Sun. Mason bees and leafcutter bees among other native bees which are non-stinging, non- swarming will use these structures to rear their young.

The native bee population of NH can be a valuable asset in compensating for the loss of the European Honey Bee but these Native Bees need our help to expand their populations.

