

THE BIG APPLE

How do ya like them apples? In our area, 100% of apple crops are pollinated by bees. Apple is New York's most lucrative pollination-dependent crop and is worth ~\$240,000,000 annually to New York's agricultural economy. Without bees and their pollination, New York would no longer be the "Big Apple."

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BEEES IN NUMBERS

There are about 20,000 species of bees in the world, close to 4000 in the US, and at least 416 in New York State. Only 11 of those 20,000 species are “honey bees,” and only 1 of the 416 species here in NYS are honey bees (*Apis mellifera*). That leaves a whole magical and exciting world of bees to discover!

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HONEY MONEY

The “buzz” brings in the “cha-ching!” Pollinators add a whopping \$217 billion to the global economy. Each year, thousands of bee colonies are used throughout New York State to pollinate more than \$1.2 billion worth of agricultural crops such as apples, cherries, strawberries, beans, squash, and pumpkins.

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WHAT BEES CALL HOME

Look around you; all the trees you see on this slope share something in common—they're all conifers! Many bee species actually live solitary lifestyles outside of a hive, and habitats surrounding this buzzline provide a great place for pollinators to call home. Check out the brochure to see how you can make your landscape more pollinator friendly!

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THE SAD REALITY

Between 42% and 68% of New York's 80,000 honey bee colonies have died each year since 2010. These unsustainable losses are well above what beekeepers consider "acceptable" to keep their operations viable. You can help colonies survive by planting flower gardens, not using pesticides, and supporting land conservation. Pick up a brochure to learn more!

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