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More than 25,000 bees were found dead in Wilsonville, Ore. (The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation/AP Photo)

The mystery of why thousands of bees fell from the sky has been solved, according to the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

The department announced Friday that it has determined an insecticide caused the deaths this week of 25,000 bees in Wilsonville, Ore.

The bees were found scattered across a parking lot earlier this week.

Mace Vaughn and his partner Rich Hatfield of the non-profit environmental group the Xerces Society worked with the Oregon Department of Agriculture to discover the cause by painstakingly picking up specimens of dead bees.

"We've lost a hundred, a hundred fifty colonies at least just from this area - just wiped them out," Vaughn told ABCNews.com affiliate **KATU-TV** in Portland.

On Friday, the **Oregon Department of Agriculture determined the bees** were killed by an insecticide called Safari used to kill aphids. The trees where the insecticide was used are being netted to protect any surviving bees that might wander into the area.

The death of the bees in Oregon **comes as colony collapse disorder** threatens honey bee populations across the U.S.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, beekeepers have been reported losing between 30 to 90 percent of their colonies since 2006. There is no known cause for the disorder, in which bees abruptly leave the hive.



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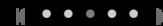


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Robin McBee > Guest • 5 years ago

same difference. killing anything that we need to keep the circle of life rolling like it should is stupid as stupid does. right? or no?

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GumShoo > Robin McBee • 5 years ago

I love that idiots keep using down arrows. Do they know where food comes from?

5 | • Reply • Share ›



woodguy11 • 5 years ago

look at the pic they look like bumble bees.....they pollinate also.....once these bees are gone we will see a steady decline or our food. thank you monsanto

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grannygrey50 > woodguy11 • 5 years ago

People don't have to keep buying insecticide and herbicides so they 'have beautiful lawns and no bugs'...

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What genius used a down arrow for this?

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deannaM > GumShoo • 5 years ago

ALSO, NOTICE THEY SHOW YOU THE "UP" VOTERS BUT NOT THE "DOWN" VOTERS

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Derek Ward > deannaM • 5 years ago

25,000 bees are nothing - on deanna's 16 acre apartment complex property, billions of bats and frogs have been killed by smart meters!

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