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NEWS RELEASE

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The Buzz about Your Food

The Benefits of Bees and Other Pollinators

Nationally and in Arizona this is [Pollinator Week](#), which is a great time to think about the importance of honey bees and other pollinators such as butterflies, beetles, and birds.

Pollinators are responsible for about one-third of the food you put into your mouth on a daily basis.

“Many people’s immediate reaction to what they consider pests is to eliminate them,” said Mark Killian, Director of the Arizona Department of Agriculture. “All pollinators should be cherished, especially bees. Whenever safety isn’t a concern, bees should be captured by beekeepers instead of destroyed.”

The number of bee colonies continues to dwindle in our country with the most [recent statistics](#) showing the second highest annual loss recorded to date.

“Honey bees are the key to provide sustainable agriculture in our country,” said Christi Heintz, Executive Director of [Project Apis m.](#) “Since 2006 we’ve focused on helping beekeepers raise healthier bees for better pollination and crop yields.”

The value of bees alone for the pollination of America’s crops is \$15 billion dollars. Not to mention the sweet benefit of honey, a \$1.7 million industry in Arizona.

Ideas on how you can [help](#) from the Pollinator Partnership:

- **Reduce your impact.** Reduce or eliminate your pesticide use, increase green spaces and minimize urbanization.
- **Plant for pollinators.** Create pollinator-friendly habitat with native flowering plants that supply pollinators with nectar, pollen and homes. For information on what to plant in your area, download a free [ecoregional guide](#).
- **Tell a friend.** Educate your neighbors, schools, and community groups about the importance of pollinators. Invite your friends to a special dinner, a pollinated food cook-off or other event.
- **Join the Pollinator Partnership.** Go to [Pollinator.org](#). Be part of a growing community of pollinator supporters.

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