

## Homegrown Minneapolis – January 15, Update

### Healthy Bees Healthy Lives Event, Thursday, January 16

Gandhi Mahal,  
6:30-8:30 pm

Join the Beez Kneez, Dr. Marla Spivak, University of Minnesota Bee Squad and others for a night of reflection and action.

Honeybees and other pollinators are in deep trouble. Colonies are dying at an unprecedented rate, a problem known as Colony Collapse Disorder. Last winter, beekeepers nationwide reported bee losses over 30 percent and as high as 70 percent.

Pesticides are one of the causes of Colony Collapse Disorder. Pesticide exposure can disrupt bees' reproduction, mobility, navigation, feeding, foraging, memory, learning, and overall hive activity. These same pesticides also harm wild pollinators like butterflies, bumblebees, and other beneficial insects.

This is a problem right here in our community. Last fall, three hives were killed by what appears to have been a legal pesticide application in southwest Minneapolis.

For more information, [www.healthybeeshealthylives.com](http://www.healthybeeshealthylives.com)

### Submit Comments to MN Dept. of Agriculture and Natural Resources on behalf of Pollinators

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is developing best management practices (BMPs) for managing public lands for diversity of flora - to protect and enhance habitat for pollinators. These draft BMP's are open for public comment through February 15th. Comments can be sent to [pollinatorhabitat.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:pollinatorhabitat.dnr@state.mn.us) by February 15th.

In addition, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture is also revising BMPs for pesticide use that takes into consideration the effects on pollinators (especially bees.) They are developing recommendations for 1) urban areas, 2) right-of-ways, and 3) agricultural lands. Part of this process is to review the registration and use of neonicotinoids. This process can be tracked at [www.mda.state.mn.us/protecting/bmps/pollinators.aspx](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/protecting/bmps/pollinators.aspx)

Please take the time to follow this process and share your thoughts and concerns.

***We need to grow the local food movement! Forward this newsletter to your friends or post the link to Homegrown Minneapolis on Facebook.***

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/homegrown>

*If you need this material in an alternative format please call Lance Knuckles at (612) 673-2919 or email [Lance.Knuckles@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Lance.Knuckles@minneapolismn.gov). Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons may use a relay service to call 311 agents at (612) 673-3000. TTY users may call (612) 673-2157 or (612) 673-2626.*



# Homegrown Minneapolis

*Attention: If you have any questions regarding this material please call 311 (or insert your department telephone number)*

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