Virginia State Managed Pollinator Protection Plan

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services 102 Governor Street Richmond Virginia 23219

Production Honey Bee Colonies in the Virginia from 1978-2013¹



Status of Bumble Bee Populations in Northern and Coastal Eastern States of the U.S.



from S. Cameron, Lozier J., Strange J., Koch J., Cordes N., Solter L., Griswold T. (2011)

Status of Eastern Monarch Butterfly Populations in Mexico





Factors Affecting Pollinator Population Stability

• Environment

- Temperature extremes
- Drought/Flooding

Nutrition

- Habitat loss
- Food resources
- Forage variety

Pathogens

- Pest
- Viral

- Genetics
 - Diversity
 - Isolation
 - Integrity
- Toxicants/pollutants
 - Point source
 - Non-point source

Virginia Managed Pollinator Protection Plan

- In June of 2014, a Presidential Memorandum was issued which directed a federal Interagency Task Force to create a "Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators."
- EPA directed to engage states in *developing* state managed pollinator protection plans as a means of mitigating the risk of pesticides to bees and other managed pollinators.

Managed Pollinator Protection Plan

- Focus on <u>communication</u> and <u>coordination</u>
 - Beekeepers
 - Agricultural producers
 - Pesticide applicators
 - Landowners
- Use of Best Management Practices
- Voluntary, proactive approach

- Includes managed pollinators <u>not</u> under contracted pollination services at the site of application
- It does <u>not</u> include pesticide applications where bees are the target pest, for example, bees infesting a structure
- Not intended to prohibit, eliminate, or further restrict the application of pesticides

Beekeeper Considerations

What - When - Where - How

- No Action
- Cover Hive
- Close Hive
- Move Hive



Pesticide Considerations

- Active Ingredient
 - Toxicity
 - Lethal
 - Sublethal
 - Residual
- Formulation
 - Dust
 - Liquid
 - Granular

- Proximity
 - -Hive
 - Forage
 - Route
- Timing
 - Flight
 - -Weather



Average Size Foraging Area 5.87 sq. miles

Deer

Park

Creek

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Honey Bee Hourly Activity - Sunny



Twilight at 4:43 am

Honey Bee Hourly Activity - Rain



Twilight at 4:43 am

Pesticide Applicator Considerations

- When possible, apply pesticides early morning or in the evening.
 - Pollinators are most active during daylight hours when the temperature is over 55 °F.
 - Apply pesticides in the evening when bees are less active.
 - Applying pesticides in the early evening allows them to decompose during the night.

Pesticide Applicator Considerations

- Be cognizant of temperature restrictions on pesticides.
 - The efficacy of some pesticides is reduced at certain temperatures.
 - Unusually low temperatures can increase the time that toxic residual remains on the crop.