

## Bee Safe, Not Sorry

Written by Jenni Stuart-Anderson

Monday, 10 January 2011 10:46 - Last Updated Thursday, 20 January 2011 12:09

---

Silently, billions of bees are dying off and our entire food chain is in danger. Bees don't just make honey, they are a giant, humble workforce, pollinating 90% of the plants we grow.

Multiple scientific studies fault one group of toxic pesticides for their rapid demise, and bee populations have soared in four European countries that have banned these products. But powerful chemical companies are lobbying hard to keep selling this poison. Our best chance to save bees now is to push the US and EU to ban this deadly product -- their action is critical and will have a ripple effect on the rest of the world.

We have no time to lose -- the debate is raging about what to do. This is not just about saving bumble bees, this is about survival. Let's build a giant global buzz calling for the EU and US to outlaw these killer chemicals and save our bees and our food. Sign the [emergency petition](#) now and send it onto to everyone and we'll deliver it to key decision makers:

Bees are vital to life on earth -- every year pollinating plants and crops with an estimated \$40bn value, over one third of the food supply in many countries. Without immediate action to save bees we could end up with no fruit, no vegetables, no nuts, no oils and no cotton.

Recent years have seen a steep and disturbing global decline in bee populations -- some bee species are now extinct and others are at just 4% of their previous numbers. Scientists have been scrambling for answers. Some studies claim the decline may be due to a combination of factors including disease, habitat loss and toxic chemicals. But leading independent research has produced strong evidence blaming neonicotinoid pesticides. This has led to beekeepers and scientists in France, Italy, Slovenia and even Germany, where the main manufacturer Bayer is based, already pushing successfully for bans of one of these bee killers. Meanwhile, Bayer continues to export its poison across the world.

This issue is now coming to the boil as major new studies have confirmed the scale of this problem. If we can get European and US decision-makers to take action, others will follow. It won't be easy. A leaked document shows that the US Environmental Protection Agency knew about the pesticide's dangers, but ignored them. The document says Bayer's "highly toxic" product is a "major risk concern to non target insects (honey bees)".

We need to make our voices heard to counter Bayer's very strong influence on policy makers and scientists in both the US and the EU where they fund the studies and sit on policy bodies. The real experts -- the beekeepers and farmers -- want these deadly pesticides prohibited until and unless we have solid, independent studies that show they are safe.

We can no longer leave our delicate food chain in the hands of research run by the chemical companies and the regulators that are in their pockets. Banning this pesticide will move us closer to a world safe for ourselves and the other species we care about and depend on.

## **Bee Safe, Not Sorry**

Written by Jenni Stuart-Anderson

Monday, 10 January 2011 10:46 - Last Updated Thursday, 20 January 2011 12:09

---

[Bee decline could be down to chemical cocktail interfering with brains](#)

[Bee briefing](#)

[\\$15 Billion Bee Murder Mystery Deepens](#)

["Nicotine Bees" Population Restored With Neonicotinoids Ban](#)

[EPA memo reveals concern that pesticide causes bee deaths](#)

[Beekeepers want government to pull pesticide](#)

[British Beekeepers' Association to stop endorsing bee-killing pesticides](#)

[Pesticide industry involvement in EU risk assessment puts survival of bees at stake](#)

## **Editor**

Ledbury Portal article: [The Plight of the Humble Bee](#)