

## **Pesticides Contribute to Bee Colony Collapse, Report Finds**

Scientists believe a combination of factors contributes to Colony Collapse Disorder, including habitat loss, parasites and viruses. But recent studies point to a common group of pesticides called neonicotinoids as a significant factor.

Paul Towers is with the Pesticide Action Network North America. He says current science suggests even low levels of pesticides can cause serious damage to bee colonies:

TOWERS: "While they may not kill the bees outright they suppress or depress their immune system, and make them vulnerable to a whole host of other factors, these other pathogens, the varroa mite, chief among them, and poor nutrition. It's this combination of factors that puts the honeybees at greatest risk."

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