

Simple cure for the honeybee

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Re: "The lowly honeybee deserves a lot more attention" (Opinion, March 22).

Tom Spears's conclusions to the contrary, the mysteries behind the phenomenon of bee colony collapse syndrome (CCS) would appear to have been largely resolved.

Reese Halter, author of *The Incomparable Honeybee and the Economics of Pollination* said in an interview on CBC Radio's *The Current* that agricultural herbicides and pesticides have emerged as the likely and prime culprit for the disorder.

These would appear to adversely effect the bees' neurological systems, inducing the onset of Parkinson's Disease. This in turn causes the bees to become disoriented in the course of pollination, and they then lose their way and die without returning to their hives.

In fact, the cure is simple: dramatic curtailment of herbicide and pesticide use in modern agriculture, which is detrimental not only to bees, but to all manner of plant and animal life, including humans.

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