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Radio Made In Michigan

11:29 AM THU JUNE 6, 2013

# Researchers tackle the decline of bees in Michigan

By CURRENT STATE

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Each year, billions of dollars of our nation's agriculture sector are the direct result of the work done by bees. In Michigan, blueberry, apple and cherry growers - among others - count on them to pollinate their crops.

However, bee populations have been in slow decline across most of the United States.

While it's not quite at crisis level yet, researchers are looking for strategies to make sure the pollinators don't disappear.



<http://mediad.publicbroadcasting.net/p/wkar/files/201306/bee.jpg>  
Enlarge image (<http://mediad.publicbroadcasting.net/p/wkar/files/201306/bee.jpg>)

*Credit Flickr*

There are about 20,000 different species of bees in the world, 350-400 of which are present in Michigan, according to entomologist Rufus Isaacs.

[MSU entomologist Rufus Issacs \(http://www.ent.msu.edu/directory/facultypages/isaacs/tabid/149/default.aspx\)](http://www.ent.msu.edu/directory/facultypages/isaacs/tabid/149/default.aspx), who is leading this research, discusses the state of bees in Michigan.

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