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The Buzz On Bees

Humanity's indispensable insect ally is facing an array of threats, many man-made

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 <p>CHARLES KREBS Solving the Mystery of the Vanishing Bees The mysterious ailment called colony collapse disorder has wiped out large numbers of the bees that pollinate a third of our crops. The causes turn out to be surprisingly complex, but solutions are emerging</p>	 <p>Courtesy of Theresa Pitts-Singer of the USDA. Plan Bee: As Honeybees Die Out, Will Other Species Take Their Place? In a race against time, researchers propagate native solitary bees as an alternative to our most important pollinators</p>	 <p>Mark K. Greco, Swiss Bee Research Centre Stingless Bees Mummify Enemies Lacking a stinger is no barrier to kicking butt in the evolutionary cage match between Australian bees and hive-invading parasites</p>	 <p>FLICKR/MINDFRIEZE Urban Beekeepers Keep Cities Abuzz with Pollinators Home sweet home: Not all honeybees work far afield--some are making honey high in the rooftops</p>

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 One million of the 2.4 million US honeybee colonies perished last winter. What's behind the die off is still a mystery, but one researcher plans to spend this summer gathering clues.

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