

Effects of Non-Native Plants on Native Bees in the Pacific Northwest



Osmia lignaria photographs: Sam Droege, USGS Bee Inventory and Monitoring Lab

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Problem

- Colony Collapse Disorder affects population decline of honey bees worldwide, native bees populations are also in decline
- Native pollinators shown to be especially important to pollination and survival of native plants
- It is unclear how and if non-native plants support native bees to the same extent as native plants

Current Research

- Examining native mason bee performance in the Seattle metropolitan area
- Quantifying what native bees are eating and how it affects colony health
- Recording relative abundance of native and non-native plants

Future Research

- Examine habitat structure on native bee colony health
- Measure protein and amino acid content in native and non-native plant pollen
- Quantify effects of non-native pollen on native bees across a diverse landscape



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