



Daily Article (Bharath's Reading list) - Answers and Explanations 11.09.2023

Article link : <https://bit.ly/3sSXzXm> **(America's Bee Problem Is an Us Problem)**

1. According to the article, 'Save the bees' campaigns and pollinator protection bills are where the bee-industrial complex quagmire "is at its deepest" because:

- A. Bees are natural and essential to the land and protecting them is a matter of conservation and maintaining peace with the environment
- B. US agriculture continues to bend towards monocrop harvests, which have eroded native pollinator populations, leading to over-reliance on European honeybees that is both invasive and increasingly unstable
- C. Bees contribute directly contribute to a third of America's food and \$17 billion worth of crops annually from honeybee pollination alone
- D. All the above

Explanation : B

Option B is clearly stated in the article. Option A is incorrect: 'The problem of bees in America is not a question of peace with the environment. It's not really even a matter of conservation, per se. The bees most folks believe ought to be saved are neither natural to the land nor essential to it. They are, instead, integral to our agricultural system, grocery stores, refrigerators, and pantries.' Option C is unrelated to the 'quagmire' mentioned in the question.

2. U.S. agriculture had been dependent on the honeybee but also killing it, as:

- A. Crops that depend on honeybees for pollination are also chemically treated with pesticides which adversely affect bees
- B. Bees are especially susceptible to diseases and parasites in February which is when almonds bloom
- C. Bees used for pollination have only almond nectar, which is harmful to them, for six weeks

and therefore end up unhealthy
D. All the above

Explanation: A

The article explains the adverse effect of pesticides on bees in detail. So, option A is true. Option B is incorrect-- the article does not say bees are “especially susceptible” to diseases and parasites in February. Option C is incorrect. The article says almond nectar is good for bees, but as they end up consuming nothing else for six weeks, they end up unhealthy.

3. Based on the article, which of the following is incorrect?

- A. City beekeeping is now a bona fide economy, just like commercial beekeeping
- B. It was with the creation of the movable-frame hive, by the mid-19th century that beekeeping for mass production became possible
- C. Varroa mites cause more damage to honeybee colonies than every other apicultural disease
- D. There are more than 20,000 types of honeybees in the world and about 5,000 types of these in North America

Explanation: D

Note the lines, ‘There are about 20,000 types of bees in the world and about 5,000 types of bees in North America and 258 types of bees on this island of Manhattan, and one type of bee amongst all of those that makes honey. And that’s the honeybee.’