Honey Bee Colony Losses Worldwide, and Potential Impacts on U.S. Agriculture

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U.S. Honey Bee Colony Losses over a four year period, 2007-10
Managed Honey Bee Colonies in the U.S.

Colonies (Million)

Parasitic mites introduced into U.S.

NASS data
California almonds require 1.5 million honey bee colonies each year; that represents more than half of all managed colonies in the U.S.
Honey bee colonies needed in California almonds

![Graph showing millions of honey bee colonies needed over years (2004 to 2012)]
Hypothetical colony decline in the US over a 5-year period w/ 33% / yr.
Almonds  Cost / Colony

1990s    $75
2000s    $150

Low Bush Blueberries

1990s    $50
2000s    $100
With continued bee colony losses can we meet pollination demand?
Importation of package bees from Australia?
USDA-APHIS National Bee Pest Survey, 13 States in 2009

Survey for exotic bee pests and for levels of Varroa, Nosema, virus, etc.
A honey bee hive and organic vegetable garden on the White House lawn, thanks to Michele Obama.