



# Imagine Rosh Hashana without **apples and honey.**

As you prepare for a sweet new year with apples and honey, don't forget about what makes these new year's treats possible: the bees! Honeybee populations are facing a serious problem all over the world known as **Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD)**, a condition in which bees abandon their hives, causing bee populations to dwindle. In the past six years, a loss of an estimated **10 million beehives** can be attributed to CCD.

What's causing this detrimental loss of hives? Scientists believe the major causes are chemicals found in **pesticides** and **fungicides**.

Loss of bee life is tragic in itself—but the consequences do not end there. **One third** of American crops rely on bees to pollinate them, and fewer bees means disruption to the natural cycle of pollination for reliant crops, such as broccoli, bell peppers, apples, and avocado. Can you imagine a world without apples to eat on Rosh Hashana? If we let CCD continue without taking action, we face the risk of a reduced agricultural output. Luckily, we are not at catastrophic levels of bee loss yet, and there are steps we can take to keep bees **healthy** and **stress-free**.

This Rosh Hashana, take steps to learn more about bees and their important role. See next page for ideas!



## What can I do?

### Before Rosh Hashana:

- Aim to buy ingredients that are organic, as much as possible, to support pesticide-, herbicide-, and fungicide-free farming. Start with organic apples and local honey for your Rosh Hashana meals.
- Buy honey at your farmer's market from local beekeepers or other distributors of fresh, local honey.

### During Rosh Hashana:

- Educate your guests! Explain your choice to use organic apples and local honey, and begin a discussion about the effects of CCD not only on bees, but also on farming and the food we eat. Learn more by watching *Silence of the Bees* on pbs.org.
- Try lots of kinds of honey! To remind guests that honey comes from bees visiting different flowers, try a taste test of different honeys: wildflower and orange blossom are common, but you can try more exotic honeys as well such as lavender, wild blueberry, mesquite, and many others.

### After Rosh Hashana:

- Write to your Member of Congress to support the "Save America's Pollinator's Act." Visit [beyondpesticides.org](http://beyondpesticides.org) for more information about contacting your Member of Congress.
- Cultivate local bee health by reducing or stopping the use of pesticides in your own garden. To learn more about how scientists discovered that pesticides are the killer of the bees, visit Quartz at [qz.com](http://qz.com).
- Grow bee-friendly flowers, bushes, shrubs, and trees on your own property to encourage the diversification of food sources for local bees. Learn how to plan a bee friendly garden at [thedailygreen.com](http://thedailygreen.com).
- For the super ambitious: become a home bee keeper to help a healthy hive thrive! Learn how to become a backyard beekeeper at [beyondpesticides.org](http://beyondpesticides.org).

Learn more about making your holidays healthier and more sustainable at [hazon.org/holidays](http://hazon.org/holidays).