

Driftwatch Pollinator Mapping Application

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Over 65% percent of food consumed in the United States is pollinated by bees. Unfortunately, due to poor farming practices, pesticides are sprayed in bee sensitive areas unknowingly and as a result, the bee population is dwindling at an alarming rate. With lesser bees to pollinate crops, produce is compromised on a very large scale and this could have disastrous impacts on the nation's needs for food. Apiarists and beehive owners face the major responsibility of ensuring that their hives aren't affected by dangerous insecticides and pesticides from the farming areas that they might visit during their crop pollination cycles across states in the United States.

The major issue underlying in this current scenario involving the dwindling of the bee population is the lack of communication between beehive owners and government registered farmers.

In order to improve the communication between beehive owners and the registered farmers, it was evident that a medium as universal and adaptive as technology would be required to play a major role in the solution. Cell phones and tablets seemingly prove to be devices used by almost all individuals regularly. In an attempt to use these devices in improving communication, it was suggested to develop a mobile phone/tablet application which can be used to connect to a server to regulate and share information on an intuitive basis. An intrusive mobile phone and tablet Operating System, Google Android was chosen as the platform on which the application would be developed. The requirements of the application involve having to connect to a server for remote login by bee inspectors, to be able to plot data points representing beehive locations on a Google Maps layer and to modify, remove or add beehive locations so that the changes can be reflected on the host server.

The application prototype is to field tested by farmers based in the farm regions of the mid west.

No results have been gathered yet.

It is expected that the application will be useful in solving the communication issue between farmers and the beehive owners.