

Clovers, Fruit Trees, Vegetables, Flowers and People all need Bees.

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If you choose to keep bees for honey or for your clovers, orchard or garden, firstly Google and learn about prevention to control bee pests and problems, and bee hive suppliers.

Scientists seem to like working on treatments, rather than preventions, which www.grazinginfo.com is based on.

Either a parasite or a toxin can be a whammy which hosts can cope with, but when a second strikes, deaths can occur in animals and people. An example of this was in Taranaki when the first Facial Eczema damaged cows died fairly quickly after getting bloat or milk fever. Vets and farmers were surprised that even after treatment, many cows still died.

Those who checked Facial Eczema in Animal Health decades ago and applied it, don't suffer from Facial Eczema, saving a lot, and grow more pasture from healthier soils and pastures, after the prevention of growing thatch and spores eliminated Facial Eczema, thanks to LimeMagPlus.

See this bee hive invention at www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_pj4cz2VJM

Their new plastic honeycombs are amazing and kind to bee keepers and bees that then don't have to be disturbed, smoked, and brushed off their honeycombs.

Some have been critical of the system while some have made good suggestion for improvements, which are likely to be adopted. One critic said that one of the new hives had died after a year. Varroa can kill a bee colony within a year. There could be many more reasons for the death. Bees themselves live only from between a few months and a year, and there are parasites that strike hives, and queen bees die, etc.

Hives need to slope slightly to the back and be designed to allow rain water to drain out, not pond and drown some bees, and cause algae and pollution in the hive.

Evolution is wonderful, so bees that according to some, don't like the new plastic honeycombs might die off while some will evolve and eventually thrive. There are hundreds of varieties of bees around the world. Some people won't like referring to evolution, but people evolve. In Africa and India, the people closer to the equator are darker skinned than those further away.

Most inventors are criticised. I've invented 30 items so I know. Three companies I approach with a plan would not manufacture the spinner drain digger I invented in 1959, because, "It was so simple it would have been made ages ago," some claimed.

I then bought a welder to make one, and many more after it. They were then made world-wide. See Soils > Drainage.

Bee keeping is big business, so those fearing losing work or sales of old style hives, will criticise the new ones. Despite some criticism, some who just want one hive are likely to buy them.

Bees in New Zealand have been calculated to earn \$3 billion a year from pollinating clovers, Kiwi fruit and plants to set seed, and make fruit. Then there is the honey from the bees.

Farmers should therefore be conscious of protecting them all year from sprays, etc. Native and other trees can help with this.

In the last four years, up to 40 percent of USA bee colonies have been destroyed at the hands of "Colony Collapse Disorder," a mystery that causes bees to become disoriented, not return to their hives, and ultimately die.

Bees can normally fly a kilometre or more and back to their hive.

Some say that it is the increase in sprays causing the reduction in bee numbers. Seventy years ago we were taught at agricultural college to avoid spraying when plants were flowering, but with the increase in the use of contractors and helicopters, working around wind and rain, this is seldom applied.

Roundup is being used extensively around the world and lasts in crops and animals eating the crops-and is in the meat and milk, making the statements about it becoming inert soon after spraying, completely untrue. Apparently Monsanto knew this and that it affects the unborn, 30 years ago.

Rules

There are rules in some areas, about keeping bees and having to treat them against Varroa mite, etc.

In towns, hives are best on shed roofs (anchor them) or anywhere high because when they leave hives they usually go in a straight line which if low, can be into walking people on the adjoining property. They also drop

things which are not nice on cars. If in the back yard, have a 1.8 m high boundary fence or shrubs around them. Wherever they are, protect them from children and animals.

News Items

Following the mass death of bees in Germany, pesticide approvals were suspended and Bayer was made to take Gaucho and Poncho off the market worldwide.

Bayer is a world market leader in pesticides. With sales of 556 million Euro in 2007, In Germany is used under the brand names Gaucho, Antarc and Chinook, primarily during the cultivation of rape, sugar-beet and corn.

Some sugar from sugar beet and sugarcane have been found to contain Roundup.

In Germany 50 to 60% of the bees have died, and some beekeepers have lost all their hives.

Beekeepers and agricultural officials in Italy, France and Holland all noticed similar phenomena in their fields when planting began a few weeks ago.

Wild bees and other insects are suffering from a significant loss of tree population.

Seeds are treated with clothianidin in advance or sprayed with it while in the field, and the insecticide can also be blown onto other crops. The chemical is often sprayed on corn fields during the spring planting to create a protective film on cornfields.

Germany has banned a group of pesticides that are blamed for the deaths of millions of honeybees.

The UK believes that bees contribute US\$400 million a year to their economy.

The Nosema parasite has caused widespread bee colony losses in Europe and Asia, researchers say. It is only one of many potential pathogens in bees, making it one of a number of possible culprits or combinations of the collapse.

USA

Some people in USA believe that the cell phone system is accentuating the loss of their bees, some of which are leaving their hives and dying. Apparently, placing a cell phone near a beehive upsets them. However, another person reported that he visited an area where bee numbers had reduced and it was outside of cell phone range - he could not use his phone there.

High tension power wires are also blamed for adversely affecting bees.

New Zealand

Varroa mite in bees started in about 1999. It spread rapidly. MAF was too slow and aimed to stop spread instead of eliminating it. An employee was badly upset by MAF's slowness. Some MAF staff said that none of the controls were soon enough or thorough enough.

From Rural News 24 January 2008

Varroa mite has reduced bee numbers which is reducing pollination of some plants. Hives are now sprayed to kill the mite.

The mite sucks the blood of adult bees, but also infects young bees still in their pupal stage. It leaves the bees weakened so their life span is reduced from six weeks down to one week, but also spreads diseases that kill the bees directly. The mite lays its eggs inside the brood cells of a beehive, where the mites develop to maturity by feeding on bee larvae.

Uncontrolled, Varroa will usually kill a bee colony within a year which is an expensive loss to beekeepers as well as a major threat to honey producers and New Zealand's billion dollar fruit export industry, which relies on bees for pollination, as do pastures.

Varroa is being controlled mostly through the use of chemical miticides which cost the beekeeping industry \$1.5 million annually. While such treatments are generally effective, their use is not sustainable says Hort Research honeybee scientist Dr Mark Goodwin.

Overseas, Varroa has quickly built up resistance to these miticides, resulting in large hive losses. In addition, while perfectly safe if used correctly, beekeepers and growers would prefer not to have these chemicals in our natural environment.

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