

Africanized Honey Bee

Bee Aware...Look, Listen, Run

What's being done to control Africanized honey bees ?

State monitors 100
baited hive traps

Traps are checked every
2-4 weeks

Please do not disturb
traps

If you see bee activity
around the traps you can
help by calling
(435) 634-5708



Call 911 if you see an attack

Always remain alert for bees or
other stinging insects

Look and listen for bees in work
areas before using power equip-
ment...noise excites bees.

If attacked, run and get inside a
building or vehicle

Don't swat at bees

Cover your head

Contact a licensed pest control
operator to remove nests
Seek medical attention if
needed.



Division of
Plant Industry

Utah Department of
Agriculture & Food

Things to know now that Africanized honey bees are in Utah

- ◆ African bees do not intentionally try to hurt people. They are defensive, and attack when they think their hive is being threatened. A single African bee sting is no more dangerous than a single European bee sting. African bees are more threatening because so many bees will attack an intruder.
- ◆ Be aware of your surroundings. Taking simple precautions is the best defense against AHB.
- ◆ Be aware of buzzing bees and small clusters of bees near buildings or in cracks in the ground. Their nests may be underground, or in abandoned structures or discarded tires, buckets, and etc.
- ◆ If you are attacked, cover your head with a coat or shirt, and run to shelter inside a car or building. Call 911.
- ◆ Don't swat at bees, this only makes them more defensive.
- ◆ Don't jump into water, they will wait for you.
- ◆ If stung, scrape off the stinger with a fingernail or credit card.
- ◆ Seek medical attention if necessary.
- ◆ Call a pest control company to remove the nest.
- ◆ Bee proof your home by filling cracks in walls and foundations where nests can be built.
- ◆ Utah and the rest of the country rely on honeybees to pollinate many of our crops. Utah has about 350 beekeepers who contribute millions of dollars to the state's economy. The UDAF and the state's beekeepers are working to educate people about the differences between the gentle European honeybee and the Africanized bee.
- ◆ Visit ag.utah.gov for more bee safety tips or call 435-634-5708 or 801-538-7123.

Bee Aware of your environment

Look, Listen and Run

When outdoors it is important to survey your surroundings and look out for potential dangers such as snakes, scorpions, yellow jackets and other stinging insects. Often honey bee colonies are referred to as swarms. But in reality, a swarm is a dispersal stage when bees are looking for a new home or nest site. Swarming bees are not likely to attack because they have no home to defend. It is established colonies, where the bees are producing wax, honey and young, that present potential stinging threats.

It is easy to understand someone's initial reaction to an attack by a potential stinging insect— there is a natural tendency to swat at the intruder. However, it is extremely important not to do this with Africanized bees. Swatting may provide the bees even more.

Bees release an “alarm pheromone” after they sting, which signals others to come and attack. In the case of Africanized bees, this could mean almost the entire hive. There are precautions you can take to protect yourself against stinging insects:

- ◆ Remain alert for bees. Look for bees in work areas before using power equipment such as lawnmowers, weed eaters, and chain saws. Noise excites bees.
- ◆ Eliminate potential nesting sites. Check walls and eaves of structures. Plug holes.
- ◆ If bees begin to chase you, run away as fast as you can covering your head with a coat or shirt. Get inside a car or building as fast as you can. Even if a few bees get in with you it is better than remaining outside where there are larger numbers of bees.
- ◆ Do not jump into water. Bees will wait for you to surface.
- ◆ Remove stingers by scraping it out with a fingernail or credit card. Squeezing the stinger will release more venom.
- ◆ See a doctor if you are stung several times and breathing is difficult or if you are allergic to bee stings.
- ◆ Contact a licensed pest control operator to remove the nest.
- ◆ In case of allergic reaction, have a bee sting kit available.
- ◆ Have a plan and communicate it with your family for avoiding or responding to stinging insects.

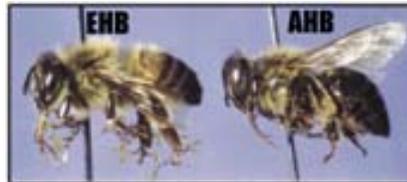
A Brief History

Honey bees brought to the US in the 1600's by European settlers soon became one of the most economically beneficial insects. Their gentle nature made them easy to manage. Utah's and the nation's food production system would be greatly diminished if the bee population were to be diminished. In many areas, up to 1/3rd of the agricultural production is attributed to honey bee pollination.

In 1956, researchers in Brazil imported honey bees from Africa in an attempt to create a bee that would be better suited to tropical conditions. The African Honey Bee (AHB) were bred with European honey bees (EHB). Researchers expected that when mated with European honey bee, the African bee would lose its more defensive nature. However, that was not the case, and in 1957, 26 African queen bees escaped from a breeding program in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The hybrid Africanized bee became established and expanded their range through South and Central America. The first report of Africanized bee in the United State was made in Hidalgo, Texas in 1990. Since then, they have been found throughout the southern US.

Africanized vs. European Honey Bees

It is difficult to visually distinguish Africanized honey bees from European honey bees. Only through USDA-ID testing can the species be verified.



- ◆ AHB are more defensive—defend their nests with less provocation, in greater numbers and for longer distances.
- ◆ AHB swarm as many as 16 times per year — EHB swarm only once or twice a year. Swarming is the reproductive behavior that occurs when bees are looking for a new nest site.
- ◆ AHB are not selective of nesting sites —they will quickly inhabit empty spaces, holes or cavities. EHB are more selective and prefer drier sites 3 or 4 feet above the ground.

BEES AWARE of your environment

Esté consciente de su medio ambiente

Africanized Honey Bee Potential Hive Locations

Lugares potenciales de panales de abejas africanizadas



storage shed
almacenes

wood pile
pilas de madera

flower pots
macetas de flores

bird house
casas de pajaros

empty containers
recipientes vacios

Cinder blocks
bloques de construcci3n

eaves
aleros

chimney
chimeneas

roof vents
respiraderos de los
techos e azoteas

rain gutter
canales para la lluvia

air conditioner
aires acondicionados

barbecue grill
parrillas para barbacoa

BE AWARE OF:

- mailboxes
- culverts
- meter boxes
- attics

ESTE PENDIENTE DE:

- buzones de correo
- alcantarillas
- cajas de medidores
- áticos



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