

Beekeeping Resources

Agriculture and Natural Resources Fact Sheet #524



Beekeeping: Challenges and Rewards

Although many new challenges to the beekeeping industry have developed in the few years, it can still be a rewarding endeavor. Concerns for beekeepers include fungi, bacteria, parasites, and predators, as well as unwanted pesticides. Perhaps the greatest challenge, however, comes from damage caused by two species of bloodsucking mites, varroa mites and tracheal mites. Together these mites present big problems for the beekeeping industry including greater expenses, higher maintenance requirements, and a need for greater skill on the part of the beekeeper. Nonetheless, the world depends on bees. Although beekeeping is more expensive and requires a greater degree of expertise than it did even a decade ago, successful beekeepers still enjoy their bee hobby and stand to make more money today than did their counterparts of yesterday.

Beekeepers need to stay abreast of current information and technology and must be able to diagnose and treat problems on their own. One of the best sources for beekeeping information and support is beekeeping associations and groups. As a result of the challenges to beekeeping, beekeepers now work more collaboratively and are willing to share and exchange information and ideas. This bulletin provides a few resources for growers and beekeepers who are interested in learning more about this important enterprise.

Associations

American Beekeeping Federation
P.O. Box 1038, Jesup, GA 31598-1038; (912)427-4233,
fax (912)427-8447; e-mail: info@abfnet.org,
membership@abfnet.org.

American Honey Producers Association
Rt 3 Box 258 Alvin, TX 77511 Ph. (713)992-0802.

National Honey Board
390 Lashley St., Longmont, CO 80501-6045, (303)776-
2337, fax: (303)776-1177.
www.nhb.org.

Northwest District Beekeepers Association
Jean Bassett, President
(425)338-2859; beezneez@juno.com

Bee Products and Uses

Bee Venom- used in treatments for such chronic diseases as arthritis and multiple sclerosis.

Beeswax- used in candles, as lubricants and in cosmetics.

Honey- plant nectar collected by bees and concentrated in the hive by evaporation. It contains simple sugars that make a great energy source.

Pollen - additive for food.

Propolis - a sticky resin from plants collected by bees for use as hive caulking and used by humans in medicines, flavorings, and tooth-pastes.

Royal Jelly - a glandular secretion of young worker bees that serves as a food for larval queens and is thought to have nutritional value for humans.

Pollination! - it is estimated that a third of all agricultural production in the US is affected by pollination by honey bees.

Pierce County Beekeepers Association
John Timmons, President
(253)847-1516

Puget Sound Beekeepers Association
Paul Lundy, President
(206)525-9299; email plundy@dendreon.com.

Washington State Beekeepers Association
Alice Bounds (Association Contact)
418 Dean St., Zillah, WA, 98953; (509)829-6698.

The Western Apiculture Society
Ron Neese, Treasurer
P.O. Box 681, Woodland, CA 95695.

Government

Washington State Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, WA, 98504-2560; (360)902-1800; fax: (360) 902-2092; e-mail: jjesernig@agr.wa.gov; web: <www.wa.gov/agr/>.

Washington State Department of Agriculture, Inspection
James C. Bach
21 N First Ave. S-103, Yakima, WA, 98902-2663
(509)576-3041; email: jbach@agr.wa.gov; web: <www.wa.gov/agr/>.

Department of Entomology, WSU
Dr. Steve Sheppard
P.O. Box 646382, Pullman, WA, 99164-6382;
(509)335-5180, fax: (509)335-1009; email: shepp@wsu.edu; web: <entomology.wsu.edu/>.

USDA Bee Research Lab
Bee Research Laboratory
Bldg. 476, BARC-East, Beltsville, MD 20705
(301)504-8205, fax: (301)504-8736; e-mail: mfeldlau@asrr.arsusda.gov; web: <www.barc.usda.gov/psi/brl/brl-page.html>.
The Bee Research Laboratory (BRL) conducts research on the biology and control of honey bee (*Apis mellifera* L.) diseases, parasites and pests to ensure an adequate supply of bees for pollination and honey production.

Honey Market News
USDA-AMS, Fruits & Vegetable Div.
2015 So. 1st St., Rm. 4, Yakima, WA, 98903; (509)575-2494, fax: (509)457-7132.

Washington State University Extension Prosser
Dr. Daniel F. Mayer, IAREC, 24106 N. Bunn Rd.
Prosser, WA, 99350-9687, (509)786-9233, fax: (509)786-9370; email: mayerd@wsu.edu; web: <www.tricity.wsu.edu/htmls/iarec/Faculty/Mayer.htm>

Department of Entomology, Washington State University
PO Box 646382, Pullman, WA 99164-6382; (509)335-5504, fax: (509)335-1009; email: entom@wsu.edu; web: <entomology.wsu.edu/>; Apis Molecular Systematics Laboratory, WSU Department of Entomology <entomology.wsu.edu/apis/index.html>.

Internet

Beekeeping Resources
<beekeeping.about.com>

The Internet Apiculture and Beekeeping Archive
<metalab.unc.edu/bees/home.html>.

USDA Global Entomology Agriculture Research Server
<gears.tucson.ars.ag.gov>.

Publications

Alternative Pollinators: Native Bees. 1998. ATTRA (Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas) 800-346-9140, fax: (510)442-9842; web: <www.attra.org>.

American Bee Journal. Dadant & Sons, Inc., Hamilton, IL 62341.

APIS: Apicultural Information and Issues: The newsletter chronicling seventeen years of change in the art and science of beekeeping.
P.O. Box 110620, Bldg. 970, Gainesville, FL 32611-0620; (352) 392-1801 x 143, fax (352)-392-0190; e-mail: mts@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu.

Bee Culture
PO Box 706, Medina, OH 44258; 1-800-289-7668 ext. 3255.

Bee Science. Wicwas Press, P.O. Box 817, Cheshire, CT 06410.

Bee World. International Bee Research Association, 18 North Road, Cardiff CF1 3DY United Kingdom.

Beeswax - Production, Harvesting, Processing and Products. 1984. Coggshall, William L.; Morse, Roger A. Wicwas Press, PO Box 817, Cheshire, CT 06410.

The Speedy Bee. P.O. Box 998, Jesup, GA 31545.

The following publications are available from WSU Cooperative Extension King County for a nominal fee. Call (206)296-3900 to order.

Bee Pollination of Tree Fruits (PNW0282 1993)

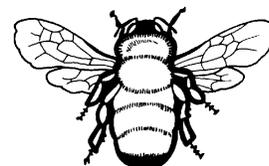
Evaluating Honey Bee Colonies for Pollination (PNW0245 1993)

Honey Bee Diseases and Their Control (PNW0198 1981)

How to Reduce Bee Poisonings From Pesticides (WREP0015 1996)

Leafcutting Bee Storage (EM2909 1973)

Protecting Honey Bees Against Yellowjackets (EB1477 1988).



Some Bee Favorites

The following plants attract pollen bees. Native bees, unlike honeybees, do not fly great distances from their nests to forage. Plantings for native bees should be within 200 yards of the target crop. Some of these plants are also good for attracting beneficial insects (—adapted from the [ATTRA](#) publication, *Alternative Pollinators: Native Bees*).

Flowers & Herbs

Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*)
Asters (*Aster*)
Beard tongue (*Penstemon*)
Bee balm (*Monarda*)
Berries—blackberry, raspberry, salmonberry (*Rubus spp.*)
Birds-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*)
Borage (*Borago officinalis*)
Brassica (broccoli, cabbage, mustards, arugula)
Burdock (*Arctium minus*)
Buttercup (*Ranunculus*)
Calendula (*Calendula*)
Chrysanthemum (*Dendranthema*)
Clover (*Trifolium spp.*)
Coneflower (*Echinacea*)
Crown-beard (*Verbesina*)
Currant (*Ribes*)
Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*)
Evening primrose (*Oenothera*)
Forget-me-not (*Myosotis*)
Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*)
Fuchsia (*Fuchsia*)
Gilia (*Gilia*)
Globe mallow (*Sphaeralcea*)
Goldenrod (*Solidago*)
Goldfields (*Lasthenia chrysostoma*)
Hollyhock (*Alcea rosea*)
Huckleberry (*Vaccinium*)
Impatiens (*Impatiens*)
Kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)

Lupine (*Lupinus*)
Marjoram (*Origanum*)
Milkvetch (*Astragalus*)
Milkweed (*Asclepias*)
Mints (*Mentha, Salvia*)
Mullein (*Verbascum*)
Nasturtium (*Tropaeolum*)
Oregon grape (*Berberis*)
Pea (*Lathyrus*)
Phacelia (*Phacelia*)
Pincushion (*Chaenactis*)
Rosemary (*Rosemarinus officinalis*)
Salal (*Gaultheria*)
Serviceberry (*Amelanchier*)
Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos*)
Squash (*Curcubita pepo*)
Sunflowers (*Helianthus*)
Tickseed (*Coreopsis*)
Vervain (*Verbena*)
Wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum*)

Shrubs & Trees

Alder (*Alnus*)
Black Cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*)
Blackberry (*Rubus*)
Dogwood (*Cornus*)
Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)
Fruit trees (apple, cherry, plum)
Raspberry (*Rubus*)
Red maple (*Acer rubrum*)
Willows (*Salix*)

Supplies

The Beez Neez Apiary Supply
403-A Maple Ave, Snohomish, WA 98290-2562; (360)
568-2191; e-mail: beezneez@juno.com.

Ashby's Honey Hive
3111 48th E, Tacoma, WA 98443-1467; (253) 922-0905.

Entomo-Logic Mason Bees, Honey, & Pollination
9807 NE 140th St, Bothell, WA 98011-51132; (425) 820-
8037; email: easugden@msn.com.

Fir View Trees 'N Bees
34747 162d Ave SE, Auburn, WA 98092-5265; (800)
696-8288, (253) 939-1149.

Knox Cellars Native Bee
25724 NE 10th St, Redmond, WA 98053-7344; (425) 898-
8802.

Ruhl Bee Supply
12713 NE Whitaker Way, Portland, OR 97230-1108; (503)
256-4231.

**Alternate formats available upon request.
206-205-3100 (TTY 711)**

No endorsement is intended of any businesses listed in this fact sheet, nor is criticism of unnamed businesses implied.

Compiled by [Sylvia Kantor](#), WSU Cooperative Extension King County, 1999.

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