

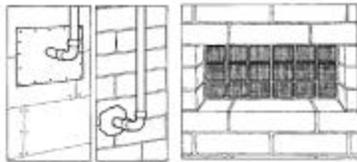
Reducing AHB Colonies

Homeowners should periodically inspect their property for potential AHB colonies.

Building Maintenance

AHBs can enter and establish a colony inside any small exterior openings of a house. A homeowner can reduce AHB colonies by:

- Sealing any openings larger than 1/8 inch, such as pipe entrances on walls and where stucco meets brick or wood.
- Repairing or replacing damaged vent screens on foundation and eaves.



Yard Maintenance

AHBs can build colonies on any structure or plant in a yard. A homeowner can reduce AHB colonies and make these sites more visible by:

- Trimming overgrown shrubs and trees, removing empty containers and trash, especially tires and boxes, and by filling in any holes in the ground.
- Checking your home or yard once or twice a week during the period between spring and fall for bees entering or leaving the same area of yard.



As a general rule, all bee swarms and colonies should be avoided. If bees are encountered, get away quickly. Keep children and pets away and notify a pest control company or government authorities.

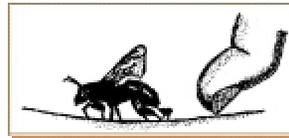
If You Are Attacked By Bees

- **Leave the area quickly** - Attack could last until victim vacates the area. Do not stand and swat at bees; rapid motion will cause them to sting.
- **Cover Face** - Use clothes to protect eyes and mouth from bees.
- **Seek Shelter** inside enclosures where bees cannot enter such as a car, house, or other building. Water or thick brush does **not** offer enough protection.

First Aid For Bee Stings

For Any Bee Sting:

- Remove stinger quickly by scraping with a fingernail or edge of a dull thin object.



For Allergic Reaction:

- Seek professional medical care as soon as possible.
- Watch for breathing difficulties.

For Multiple Stings or Hypersensitive Individuals:

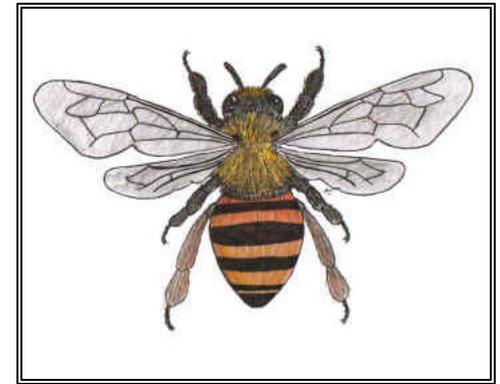
- Get immediate professional medical care.
- Do not wait for symptoms to develop.

For more information on AHBs contact:



155 Mason Circle * Concord, CA 94520
(925) 685-9301 www.ccmvcd.dst.ca.us (3/03)

AHB



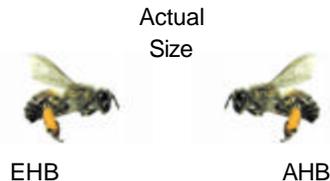
PREPARING FOR AFRICANIZED HONEY BEES



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Facts of Bees

The Africanized honeybee (AHB) has migrated into California. The first AHB swarms arrived at the southern border of California in October 1993. AHBs are predicted to continue moving northward into other areas of California that domestic European honeybees (EHBs) now inhabit. It is expected that AHBs will eventually replace unmanaged EHBs.



AHBs look the same and in most ways behave like the EHBs that currently reside in the United States. One very important difference between the two varieties is the ultra defensive behavior AHBs can display while protecting their colony location. In some South American attacks, AHBs have seriously stung or killed pets, livestock, and humans. This behavior has earned AHBs the common name "Killer Bees".

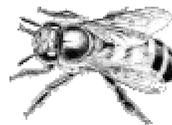
Africanized and European Honey Bee Similarities

- Look the same.
- Protect their nest and sting in defense.
- Can sting only once.
- Pollinate flowers.
- Produce honey and wax.
- Have similar toxic venom.
- Are normally non-aggressive when swarming.



Africanized and European Honey Bee Differences

- AHB workers have a shorter life cycle and life span than EHBs.
- AHBs respond faster to disturbances, attack for a longer period, and follow a victim a longer distance than EHBs. AHBs up to ¼ mile (4 football fields); EHBs up to 100 feet (1/3 of a football field)
- AHBs remain agitated longer after a disturbance than EHBs. AHBs remain defensive for 8 or more hours before defensive reaction subsides; EHBs remain defensive for perhaps 1 or more hours.
- AHBs swarm more frequently than EHBs.
- AHBs migrate longer distances than EHBs.
- AHBs are more defensive of the nest site than EHBs.
- AHBs abandon nest for a new location; EHBs do not.



Contributions of Bees

- Honeybees provide about 80% of the bee pollination required for fruit, vegetables, flowers, and seeds.
- They pollinate forage crops such as alfalfa and clover, which are fed to dairy and meat animals.
- Bees also produce honey, wax, and other products.

Identification of Bees

Honeybees are not the only stinging insects. Other bees and wasps that look and behave differently than honeybees often sting people.

Identification of Bees and Wasps		
		
5/8 inch		1 1/16 inch
EHB	AHB	Bumble Bee
		
13/16 inch		7/8 inch
Carpenter Bee		Mud Dauber
		
13/16 inch		5/8 inch
Paper Wasp		Yellowjacket

General Precautions

People can coexist with AHBs by learning about their habits and by taking a few precautions.

- Be alert when participating in all outdoor activities.
- Teach children to be cautious and respectful to **all** bees.
- Listen for buzzing indicating a nest or swarm of bees.
- Examine work area before using power equipment or other loud devices.
- Use care when entering sheds or outbuildings where bees may rest.
- Develop a safety plan for your home.