

Honey Bee Pests



Two-Legged

- Humans have always been an issue for beekeepers:
 - Commercial beekeepers have whole pallets of bees stolen, or their yards raided.
 - Hobby or small operators can have hives stolen; but normally their hives are threatened by vandals.



Pesticides Delivered by Two-Legged

- The use of bee-toxic pesticides during bloom is forbidden in most areas.
- Aerial agricultural spraying can be a big concern in rural areas.
- The pesticides are deadly to adult bees and larvae; and can build up in your comb. That is why we recommend comb replacement every 5 years.



Birds

- Birds – especially robins – love to prey on honey bees.
- Just watch around your yard to see if you have a bird problem. They tend to like queen mating yards because drones and queens are easy to catch.



Four-Legged: Bears

- Bears normally cause the most damage but can be prevented with a bee fence.
- Bears eat brood first, then honey.



Four-Legged: Skunks

- Skunks can cause major damage:
 - They scratch the front of the hive and the bees come out to investigate and get eaten.
 - If your hive is set close to the ground, always look for scratching on the hive entrance and the ground in front.
 - Setting your bees on a stand about 12-18 inches off the ground usually stops the skunks.



Four-Legged: Raccoons

- Like skunks, raccoons attack bees at night.
 - They scratch the front of the hive and the bees come out to investigate and get eaten.
 - If your hive is set close to the ground always look for scratching on the hive entrance and the ground in front.
 - Setting your bees on a stand about 12-18 inches off the ground usually stops raccoons.



Four-Legged: Mice

- Mice love the inside of your hive in the winter. It is warm and dry. They can make a real mess in your hive; and then you will need to destroy frames and disinfect equipment.
 - 3/8-inch hive entrances will keep mice out.
 - You can use a mouse guard in winter.



Four-Legged: Cows

- The corners of your hives are a favorite scratching stand for cows.
 - Put a simple fence around your hives if they are in with cows.
 - Horses don't tend to bother bees.



Six-Legged: Ants

- Ants can cause major damage to beehives
 - especially to hives that are building up. Ants love the larvae. The bees spend more time fighting ants than producing.
 - Setting the hive stand in cans of oil will stop ants, you can use ant granules around the hive. The bees do not bother the ant poison.



Six-Legged: Yellow Jackets & Hornets

- If allowed to get out of control, they will destroy your hives very quickly.
 - Serious problem in our area.
 - In early March set out your traps as that is when the queens come out. Every queen killed saves you a bad August. If your hives are being bothered by them, reduce the hive entrances. Keep brood in bottom box to help the guard bees defend the front entrance.



Six-Legged: Yellow Jackets & Hornets



Half-fill a five-gallon bucket with soapy water. Install a stick to hang half-cooked bacon above the water. This kills lots of them if you have a heavy infestation.



Small Hive Beetle

- Small hive beetles are not an issue in our area.



Six-Legged: Wax Moths

- Wax moths, if not controlled, will cause extensive damage to comb. Very serious for stored comb and dead outs.



Six-Legged: Wax Moths

- Treatment: active ingredient is **paradichlorobenzene**

