



NOVEMBER 2008

Taranaki Beekeeping Club



Hi,

This is the busy season! Everyone seems to be flat tack and it is the same in the Beekeeping world too. Hives are required for pollination, swam cells must be detected in the brood chambers, hatching brood is crowding the lower boxes, incoming nectar is reducing the brood rearing quarters, pollen shortages can occur in some areas, drone frames should be moved to the outside of the brood nest, nucs are to be made up for replacement stock, queens should be replaced if they are not laying well by now, have your swarm collecting kit at the ready, etc.!

The season is running a little late this year due to the cold nights we have had recently but on the bright, sunny, windless days there is a large quantity of nectar coming into the hives, so now is a great time to get those new frames drawn out into combs. When there is a good nectar flow, they draw combs evenly and quickly.

Have the next super ready to drop on when the bees are working the outside frames. With lots of young bees hatching and egg laying approaching maximum, space can be reduced very quickly. If you are moving brood around remember that it requires heat to mature the brood and usually the bees have the brood in the right position so don't spread the brood if there are not enough bees to cover the frames in the brood nest or the cold night air will chill and kill the brood.

If there is a cold, windy, wet spell shortly, remember that there are a lot of bees in the hives now and with brood rearing about to peak, they will go through the stores very quickly so make sure that there are at least three or four frames of honey at their disposal.

If you take swarms, it is a good idea not to put into the new hive the anti varroa strips as sometimes the bees feel uncomfortable and will move onto another venue but strips should be in the brood area within a fortnight to minimise the damage by the varroa.

If you have hives in the back garden, this is the time of year that the neighbours become a little apprehensive at the numbers of bees flying around so be aware that they should have access to water in your garden and they don't have to drink the neighbours swimming pool water or that their flight path is well away from footpaths and access or play areas like clothes lines or trampolines.

Remember what you do for your bees now will get you a better yield at the end of the season. At the next meeting we will be talking about swarms- how to prevent them, how to collect them and when to add another box to the hive. Hope to see you on Mon. 17th at the Plunket Rooms next to New World Supermarket at 6.30pm

Adrian

Next club meeting
MONDAY November 17th
In the Plunket rooms
6.30pm

Next to New World Supermarket
Third Monday of every month

REMINDER

Sue Billing has 4 books left of the new AFB Elimination Manuals available for those who are wanting to sit their **DECA**.

Spray Information

New Zealand Agrichemical Education Trust and the GROWSAFE Training Programme

The NZ Agrichemical Education Trust was formed in 1992 by the primary producer groups and aims to develop and maintain good practice standards of agrichemical use. Trustees and members now represent 21 industry organisations and Government agencies.

The GROWSAFE ® Training Programme aims to improve users' and suppliers' understanding of:

- The role of agrichemicals in the management of pests and diseases.
- Properties and mode of action of commonly used agrichemicals.
- Principles of safe, responsible and effective agrichemical application with minimal adverse impact on human, environmental and animal health.
- Potential impact of agrichemicals.
- Obligations and responsibilities of agrichemical users and suppliers.

The <http://www.spraybible.com/Agrichemical> Manual website provides instant access to a comprehensive, up-to-date database of agrichemicals that are available for use in New Zealand. It does not include home or garden formulations, veterinary chemicals, fertilisers or timber treatment products.

National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand



Do's and Don'ts of Beekeeping



Beekeeping can become like the elderly lady with the 50 cats, bee hive numbers keep increasing, bees just keep swarming and defecating until the neighbours complain to council. So:

Rule 1. Three hives spread out on a suburban section is plenty. A production hive and a 5-frame nuc colony work really well in the town. You take frames of bees and brood from the nuc and use them to replace old frames in the main hive, sometime a bit of brood has to be lost but that really is 'nature' and has to be 'lived with'.

The old frame is then reconditioned and later reused in the nuc box.

Rule 2. Try to have a 2 metre high 'screen' or planting between the hive and the neighbour. The bees will fly higher and the hive won't be right in the face of some bee terrified, allergic to everything, neighbour. (Out of sight - out of mind)

Rule 3. Try to remove frames full of pollen early in spring and replace them with empty frames. This is to stop bee dropping upsetting"the neighbours.

Bees seem to 'clean out' old frames by 'eating' the material then flying to the neighbours before crapping. This is the most common 'bee complaint' made to city councils.

Rule 4. Keep quite bees. Spend your money and buy good young queen/s of a known quiet stock yearly. Introduce new queens into a nuc and when laying, introduce the nuc into the hive after locating the original queen They are a joy to work and if marked are easily seen again.

Rule 5. Check your hive brood box every 10 days from early spring and remove swarm cells. If you find say 10 swarm cells, warn the neighbours that your hive may cast a swarm. Tell them it is not something to be feared (bee generally don't sting when swarming) but to keep away from them until they cluster. They should not ring the council! This swarm could be your next nuc colony. Read books on swarm prevention and plan ahead. A bad beekeeper has hives that swarm often.

Rule 6. Give a jar of honey to neighbours at New Year and the 'shortest day' or any time you feel your bees may have upset your neighbour. Ask them to contact you before contacting the council.

Rule 7. If someone does mention bee droppings, turn the beehive 180 degrees and erect a windbreak (bird netting) type screen to change the bees' flight path. Tell the neighbour what you have done, give a jar of honey and ask them to tell you how successful the changes have been.

Rule 8. Put on new honey boxes early and directly above the queen excluder. Remove the full honey frames for extracting as soon as they are capped. Some beekeepers are removing filled

plastic frames, scraping off the honey and wax, then putting the



bare wet frame straight back into the first honey super. The honey plus wax goes into a bucket sieve with a fitting lid and is left to filter in a hot sunny spot. You don't need an extractor using this method.

Rule 9. Put back wet supers after sunset. Wet or sticky frames will stimulate bee activity (the bees start looking for the new nectar source) causing concern to your neighbours.

Rule 10. Provide a water supply close to the hive for your bees. This can be a bucket of sand that you add water to as required. If you have problems with a neighbours swimming pool, you may have to temporarily remove your bees until the old field bees are dead (three weeks) and then return your hives but this time add a water source.

Rule 11. Working hives in the summer when your neighbours is out enjoying his garden is not good practice. Consider working your bees early in the morning so they have time to settle down before your neighbours are up.

Rule 12. Apply cool smoke for your hives twice two minutes apart before working them. Work your hives with just a veil. That way you will soon know if the bees are getting out of control. Keep exposed supers covered to prevent robbing,

Enough Rules.

Smile and wave at your neighbours and trade surplus goods etc.

What to do when the Council Officer arrives.

Be friendly and cooperative but don't show him/her around your property. ("Anything you say may be..... and used in evidence against you")

I would advise you to doing something definite, then write a note to all your neighbours telling them what you have done and ASK THEM to let YOU know if they are experiencing any problem with the bees from your pollination hive. You take away the need for the council to be involved. If a neighbour does reply to your enquiry follow rule 7 above.

If things do get right out of hand, get another beekeeper to assist you and listen to his/her advice. It's not a pleasant experience for sure but you should be able to keep one hive on your property.

Fictitious complaints

Sometime you will find a new neighbour just does not like bees and will complain to the council, no matter that the bees have been there for twenty years without complaint. This often lead to a petition to the council. In this case you have no option but to remove the beehives. However do this quietly one evening but leave a dummy hive in the original hive's place. If the complaints continue, show the council officer the empty hive. Generally this kills the complaint you should be able to put a hive back in your garden the following spring. Remember out of sight - out of mind..

National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand

Q: If a man has a bee in his hand, what does he have in his eye?

A: Beauty ... because beauty is in the eye of the bee-holder (beholder)!

Bee jokes 05

Q: Why did the queen bee kick out all of the other bees?

A: Because they kept droning on and on!

Q: What do you call a bee born in May?

A: A maybe!

Q: What kind of bee can't be understood?

A: A mumble bee!

Q: Where do bees keep their money?

A: In a honey box!

Q: What TV station do bees watch?

A: Bee bee c one!

Q: What did the bee say to the naughty bee?

A: Bee-hive yourself!

Q: Why did the bees go on strike?

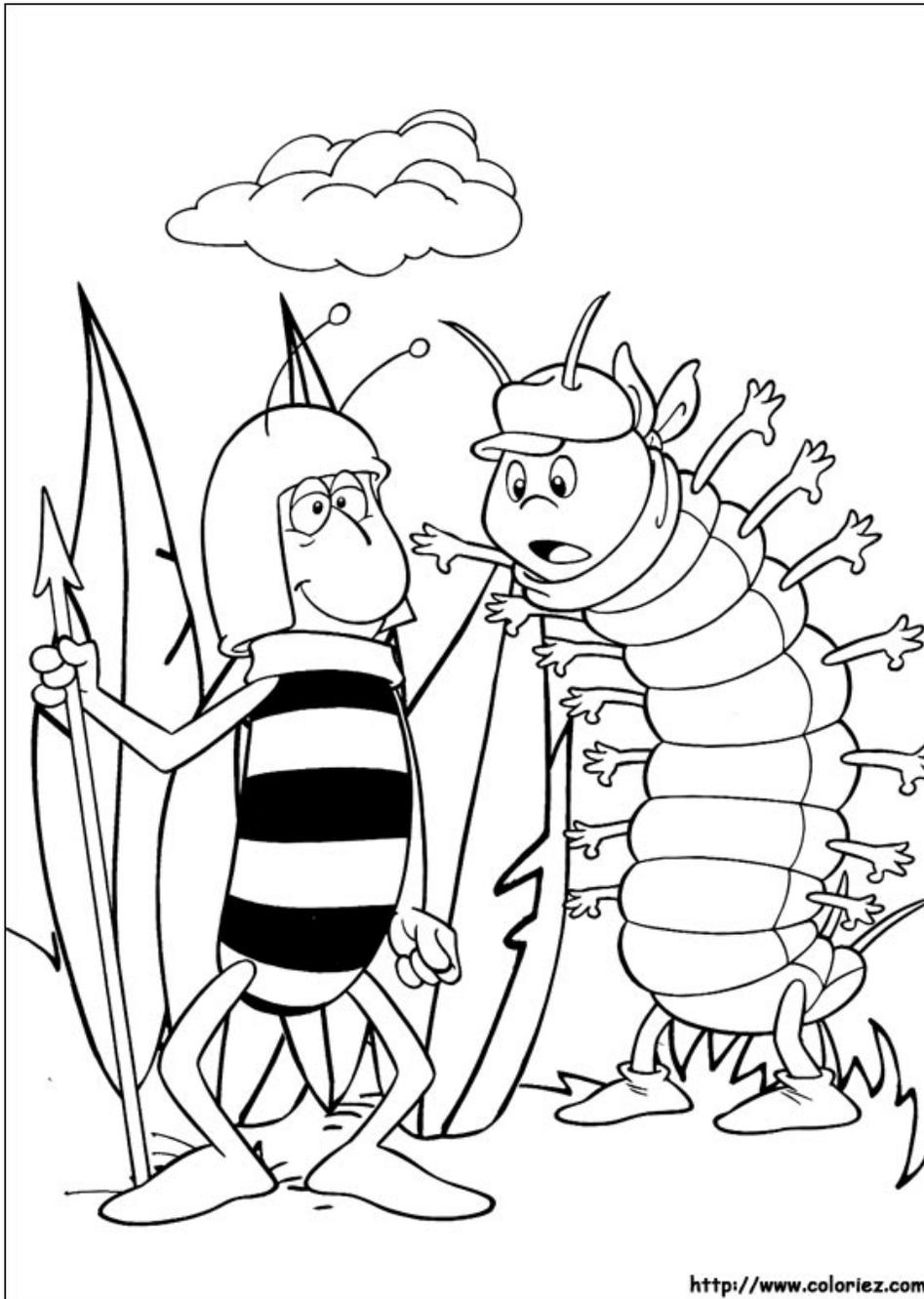
A: Because they wanted more honey and shorter working flow-ers!

Q: Why do bees have sticky hair?

A: Because of the honey combs!

Q: What is black and yellow and buzzes along at 30,000 feet?

A: A bee is an aeroplane!



<http://www.coloriez.com>

Club Contacts

Adrian King	7534681	President
Stephen Black	7526860	Secretary
Sue Billing	7574337	Treasurer