



Taranaki Beekeeping Club



WHAT'S ON IN TARANAKI

Greetings.

So, we have had a taste of Spring and now we are back in Winter with strong winds and lashing rain. Unfortunately in the warm sunny spell, the bees were hood-winked into thinking Spring had come and the time had arrived to build Queen cells so they did and we are now seeing the results with swarms beginning to take to the air to look for a better life elsewhere. These swarms are what are called Prime Swarms and they are usually large and contain the maternal Queen of doubtful age. When collected and housed, they do very well and will produce a good crop of honey at the end of the season, all other things being equal,

If a swarm has left the hive, then the bee numbers will have been reduced and there will be fewer workers to collect from the field so yields will be lower. This therefore is to be avoided if possible.

At the next meeting we will be discussing swarm prevention.

If your bees have swarmed we will be giving advice on what to do with the hive and how to try and prevent it from happening again.

We will also be giving advice on what you need to collect a swarm and what to do with it when you have collected it.

During the period of the 'false Spring', there was a good nectar flow, so the supers will be a bit crowded by now and you probably should have your third super on the hive. In some areas there has been enough honey stored to fill about three-quarters of the box!! Did you miss out?

As soon as the current wet spell ends and the warm sunshine returns, there will be another influx of nectar as the Spring flowering is about to start with the apple and pear blossom about to burst open and the willows are in full bloom at the moment.

Have you got the next super ready and do you put into it foundation frames or frames of comb from last year's honey extractions.

All will be revealed next Monday evening, the 17th. of October at the Plunket Rooms at 6.30pm.

Adrian.



Next club meeting

17th October 2011

In the PLUNKET ROOMS

6.30pm

Next to New World Supermarket

Third Monday of every month

Friday, August 19, 2011

Bees Still Love Obama: White House Hive Awash in Honey

By Paul Bedard, U.S. News & World Report, 8/17/2011

Bee Culture Editor Kim Flottum, left, with White House bee keeper Charlie Brandts beside the South Lawn hive.



At least the White House honey bees are sticking with the president. Set in some of Washington's lushest gardens and tree groves, and right next to first lady Michelle Obama's veggie patch, the single South Lawn hive has produced a record 225 and a half pounds of honey this year, nearly double its first year production.

"It's just craziness," says White House carpenter and bee keeper Charlie Brandts. "They did really well this year."...

POLLINATION

Bees play an important role in pollinating flowering plants, and are the major type of pollinator in ecosystems that contain flowering plants. Bees either focus on gathering nectar or on gathering pollen depending on demand, especially in social species. Bees gathering nectar may accomplish pollination, but bees that are deliberately gathering pollen are more efficient pollinators. It is estimated that one third of the human food supply depends on insect pollination, most of which is accomplished by bees, especially the domesticated European honey bee. Contract pollination has overtaken the role of honey production for beekeepers in many countries. Monoculture and the massive decline of many bee species (both wild and domesticated) have increasingly caused honey bee keepers to become migratory so that bees can be concentrated in seasonally varying high-demand areas of pollination.

Continued over:

Most bees are fuzzy and carry an electrostatic charge, which aids in the adherence of pollen. Female bees periodically stop foraging and groom themselves to pack the pollen into the scopa, which is on the legs in most bees, and on the ventral abdomen on others, and modified into specialized pollen baskets on the legs of honey bees and their relatives. Many bees are opportunistic foragers, and will gather pollen from a variety of plants, while others are oligolectic, gathering pollen from only one or a few types of plant. A small number of plants produce nutritious floral oils rather than pollen, which are gathered and used by oligolectic bees. One small subgroup of stingless bees, called "vulture bees," is specialized to feed on carrion, and these are the only bees that do not use plant products as food. Pollen and nectar are usually combined together to form a "provision mass", which is often soupy, but can be firm. It is formed into various shapes (typically spheroid), and stored in a small chamber (a "cell"), with the egg deposited on the mass. The cell is typically sealed after the egg is laid, and the adult and larva never interact directly (a system called "mass provisioning").

In New Zealand scientists discovered that three genera of native bees have evolved to open flower buds of the native mistletoe *Peraxilla tetrapetala*. The buds cannot open themselves but are visited by birds such as the tui and bellbird which twist the top of the ripe bud. That action releases a mechanism which causes the petals to suddenly spring open, giving access to the nectar and pollen. However, when observing the native bees in the Canterbury province in the South Island, the scientists were astonished to see the bees biting the top off the buds, then pushing with their legs, occasionally popping open the buds to allow the bees to harvest the nectar and pollen, and therefore aid in the pollination of the mistletoe which is in decline in New Zealand. Nowhere else in the world have bees demonstrated ability to open explosive bird-adapted flowers.

Visiting flowers can be a dangerous occupation. Many assassin bugs and crab spiders hide in flowers to capture unwary bees. Other bees are lost to birds in flight. Insecticides used on blooming plants kill many bees, both by direct poisoning and by contamination of their food supply. A honey bee queen may lay 2000 eggs per day during spring buildup, but she also must lay 1000 to 1500 eggs per day during the foraging season, mostly to replace daily casualties, most of which are workers dying of old age. Among solitary and primitively social bees, however, lifetime reproduction is among the lowest of all insects, as it is common for females of such species to produce fewer than 25 offspring.

The population value of bees depends partly on the individual efficiency of the bees, but also on the population itself. Thus while bumblebees have been found to be about ten times more efficient pollinators on cucurbits, the total efficiency of a colony of honey bees is much greater due to greater numbers. Likewise during early spring orchard blossoms, bumblebee populations are limited to only a few queens, and thus are not significant pollinators of early fruit.

Club contacts

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New Plymouth District Council

Bylaw 2008 Part 2: Animals

11. Beekeeping

11.1 No person shall keep or continue to keep bees if, in the opinion of an authorised officer, the keeping of such bees is, or is likely to become dangerous, injurious to health or a nuisance to any person.

11.2 The Council may by resolution prescribe conditions relating to the location and number of hives able to be kept on any premises or place in an urban area.

11.3 In prescribing any conditions under clause 11.2 the Council must consider:

- The nature and extent of the perceived problem to be addressed;
- Whether the problem can be addressed by other means;
- Any advice received from the National Bee Keepers Association;
- Any advice received from the Taranaki Regional Council; and
- Any advice received from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

BEE CLUB MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE YOU OVER- DUE!!!



This could be your last bulletin until you have paid

NEED A NEW QUEEN?

I have queens and queen cells for sale
 Queens \$30 Cells \$4 each can be picked up
 from Adrian's place or Saturday market.
 Must be ordered 3 days in advance

Stephen & Fiona
 Bees-R-Us
 06 752 6860

Beekeeping equipment and supplies. Serving Taranaki Beekeepers for over 30 years Ecroyd's authorized Taranaki agent **Ray and Barbara Scott**

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