

Just “DON’T” Do It



Tidewater Master Naturalist's *Protecting our Honey Bees*

YOUR DIET DEPENDS UPON IT

This picture represents a SWARM of honeybees. Every Spring-Summer, Mother Nature encourages the colony to divide and create another colony of honeybees. The Queen and about ½ of her daughters, leave the hive, searching for a new home. This cluster may gather on a tree branch, a bush, your mailbox, even the picnic table in your backyard while awaiting directions from the scout bees of their new address.

DO NOT SPRAY: Call us and for *FREE* we will collect the swarm!

CALL (757) 641-5933

We as consumers rely on bountiful fruit and vegetable crops and approximately 80 crops in VA rely heavily on honeybees for pollination. Reduce the number of honeybees, and we significantly reduce the availability of affordable fruits and vegetables in our homes. Homeowners and Business Owners spraying our honeybees has an immediate and long lasting effect on our ability to produce the food crops we all enjoy and want in our diet!!!



Amazing Honeybee Facts

DID YOU KNOW? Foragers are the oldest worker bees in a hive and are the only bees that most people ever see going from flower to flower. These bees are all females and make up the largest number of bees in the colony. They forage for food (pollen and nectar from flowers), build and protect the hive, clean, circulate air by beating their wings, and perform many other societal functions.

Pollination: Virginia agriculture depends greatly on the honeybee for pollination. Honeybees account for 80% of all insect pollination for over 80 food crops in VA. Without such pollination, we would see a significant decrease in the abundance and affordability of fruits and vegetables.

DID YOU KNOW? It takes about 556 workers traveling over 55,000 miles visiting 2 million flowers to gather enough nectar to make 1 pound of honey.

Swarms: Occasionally you may see a large mass of honeybees in your yard, perhaps on a branch or fence. This is called a swarm and represents the old queen and thousands of worker bees looking for a new home. This is a natural way honeybees reproduce to ensure their continued survival. PLEASE do not spray insecticide and kill this vital natural resource. The safe and most responsible thing to do if you see a swarm of honeybees is call TBA. For **FREE**, we will send a beekeeper to your home to collect these bees and place them in a hive where the bees will continue to collect pollen, pollinate our fruits and vegetables and make honey.

DID YOU KNOW? The average worker honeybee makes 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey in her lifetime. That is 5 drops of honey! Amazing!!

Honey: Honey is used by the bees for food all year round. There are many types, colors and flavors of honey, depending upon its nectar source. The bees make honey from the nectar they collect from flowering trees and plants. Honey is an easily digestible, pure food. Honey is hydroscopic and has antibacterial qualities. Eating local honey is thought by many to fend off allergies.

DID YOU KNOW? Bee Venom, the "ouch factor" most people remember, is likely a bad experience with a wasp and not a honeybee. Although sharp pain and some swelling and itching are natural reactions to a honeybee sting, only a very small percentage of individuals are highly allergic to bee venom. "Bee venom therapy" is widely practiced overseas and by some in the USA to address health problems such as arthritis, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and even MS.

You do not have to have a hive in your backyard to be a beekeeper. A beekeeper promotes, protects, and educates others to "Just "DON'T" DO It" by not spraying our swarms and feral honeybee colonies.

PLEASE DON'T SPRAY – ALWAYS CALL A BEEKEEPER!