

AFRICANIZED HONEYBEES

-SPECIAL NEWSLETTER-



Yes, that's me in the beesuit. I'm ready!

HONEYBEE CONTROL SERVICE

SHALOM PEST CONTROL now offers a special service for honeybee control. It is now established that all feral honeybees in South Florida are Africanized Honeybees (AHB), so homeowners should not attempt to deal with bees themselves. The service offered is only for bee extermination and does not include repairs to homes damaged by honey or in accessing bees in hidden places. You might need to hire a carpenter for repairs. Pricing will be determined during a visit to the infested property.

If you have any questions about AHBs, you can always reach me by email at: whitefootedant@gmail.com.

If you need to reach me during a weekend, you will have to use email.



Dr. John Warner, Ph.D.
Entomologist

AFRICANIZED HONEYBEES HAVE ARRIVED IN FLORIDA

IF ATTACKED...RUN!!

What are Africanized Honeybees?

Back in the 1950's entomologists brought some honeybees from Africa back to Brazil in hopes of breeding more productive honeybees. Unfortunately, in 1957 some 26 African queen bees escaped and began cross-breeding with the European domestic honeybees that have been our source of honey for many years. The product is called the Africanized Honeybee (AHB). The AHB's began to expand their range, first going across South America, then into Central America, and finally they arrived in the USA, in Texas in 1990.

These bees look exactly like the European honeybees, but they behave differently. They are very aggressive and will attack people. There are 14 known deaths so far in the USA and over 100 in Mexico.

We knew they would arrive eventually. I have been following their northward progress for about 30 years. So, what can we do about them? Perhaps someday entomologists will find a pathogen, predator or parasitoid that will take care of them; perhaps not. Until then, the AHBs are here to stay. They will continue to expand their range throughout South Florida. And there will be deaths. These are dangerous insects. Young children, the elderly, people with compromised immune systems or with allergies to bee stings will need special care.

PLEASE READ SOME OF THE SOURCES BELOW FOR WARNINGS AND FURTHER INFORMATION.

Internet sources of information on bees:

- My website: shalompest.homestead.com
- http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/plantinsp/apiary/images/broc_ahb.pdf
- http://pestalert.ifas.ufl.edu/africanized_bee.htm

KEY POINTS ON AHBs:

- Aggressive defense and stinging.
- Sixteen times as many swarms per year.
- Ten times as many stings per encounter.
- Not selective of nesting sites.
- Defend their nests with less provocation, in greater numbers and for longer distances.
- As of October 2010, there have been 20 AHB sting fatalities in the U.S. including 1 in Florida.