Red River Apiarists Association

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OCTOBER 2004

THE BEE CAUSE

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Special Points of interest:

PROGRAM:
The October 12th meeting program will deal with Inspection Report for cool, wet 2004 season - Rhéal Lafrenière Honey Show Plans and Progress-Judith Roe

NEXT MEETING: Date is October 12th ,7:30 pm @ the River Heights Community Center. Located at 1370 Grosvener street.

Autumn Closing in fast!

Well the beekeeping season of 2004 is finally coming to a close. Hopefully the wrath of mother nature has finally come to an end .The last couple of weeks have been good for feeding the bees as long as your queen gets the hint that Winter is soon here.

I checked some of the brood chambers on September 18th and there was wall to wall brood and eggs! I'm trying to feed the bees and the queen still thinks there's a honey flow! It's been a year I will never forget! I think that a 4x4 is definitely in the future plans of this beekeeper! Well tranquility is once again in the bee yards. I hope that everybody has feed and medicated the girls and that all is well with Manitoba s beekeepers. See you at the October meeting

Editor Dan Lecocq

Jim Campbell is seen here preparing his colonies for the winter. Proper fall management is vital for the survival of the colonies. It's a long stretch from mid October to mid march!

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Red River Apiarists' Association

Minutes of the Regular Meeting - September 14, 2004 - 7:30 PM

- Judith Roe opened the regular meeting of the RRAA, held at the River Heights Community Club, with 26 members and guests present.

- Ron Rudiak read the minutes of the August 11th executive meeting. No errors or omissions were noted. Ron moved that the minutes be adopted as read. Seconded by Joe Burrard. Carried.

- Judith circulated sign-up sheets for volunteers at the honey show.

- The president of the American Honey Producers Association, Lyle Johnson, stated in the latest AHPA publication "Honey Producer" that there is a world shortage of white honey because of a short Argentine crop and a less than average US crop. He also noted that white honey prices should rise considerably because light colored honey is used for blending darker, offshore, honey.

- Judith Roe introduced Don Kost from *acsion* **Industries Inc.** Don described the equipment used for electron beam irradiation of honey boxes which contained viable American Foulbrood spores. The tests went very well and the lab was unable to culture AFB from scale residues after the combs had been sterilized by irradiation. When bee equipment is being processed in the accelerator, it will be at a higher irradiation level than was used for effectiveness testing. Higher beam levels will ensure that any AFB spores will not be able to reinfect the colony. Preliminary estimates are that it will cost between $7.00 and $7.50 per box for sterilization. The facility can process between 45 and 50 supers per hour.

- Rhéal Lafrenière, who just returned from a trip to New Brunswick, brought back a sample of blueberry honey. This honey was from the nectar collected from blossoms in a commercially cultivated crop of blueberries. Rhéal also gave the audience an update on the disease inspection program this summer. The inspection program was unable to begin on time due to persistent poor spring weather. Manitoba Agriculture is continuing to monitor the three apiaries which were recently discovered to have resistant AFB. A further update will be presented at the RRAA meeting in October.

Autumn Apiary Management

Printed in Hivelights Vol 12 #4 p16 by Heather Clay

PREPARATIONS

A good fall management plan starts with a check of the health and strength of the colony. Diseased or weak colonies will probably not survive winter and it is better to take the loss in fall rather than feed them and lose them in spring. A weak colony should be combined with a stronger colony. Remember that any requeening should be done before mid August. The colony should enter fall with a young, vigorous, laying queen.

DISEASE CONTROL

After the honey has been harvested, any necessary disease control can commence. Autumn is the best time for varroa mite treatment. As soon as the honey is extracted, fluvalinate (Apistanâ) strips should be placed in the brood chamber. This timing is best because bee brood production is decreasing and there are fewer opportunities for the female varroa mite to lay eggs in the cells with developing bee larvae. Nosema is considered to be the silent killer of honey bee colonies in spring. This single celled parasite is a problem in stressed colonies which are hive bound especially in wet, cool conditions. Treatment in fall with fumagillan (Fumigilin®) fed in the sugar syrup should prevent nosema from infecting the queen and protect the colony from spring symptoms. American Foul Brood is a serious disease and there is growing evidence that the use of extender patties and unregulated doses of oxytetracycline have contributed to a resistant strain of AFB. The best control of AFB is achieved by burning the disease carrying frames and scorching the boxes that contained them. Call your provincial apiarist for instructions on how to contain the disease.

NUISANCE ANIMALS

In autumn many animals seek high calorie food to build their body fat reserves for winter. Honey bee larvae and honey are a delicacy for bears, skunks, and raccoons. In wooded areas it may be necessary to provide protection in the form of an electric fence for larger mammals and a board of nails at the front of the hive for smaller animals. Heavy white silage plastic laid in front of the hive has been found to discourage skunks. In some areas, tiny carnivorous shrews can enter hives and feed on bees, leaving a pile of wings in spring. An effective shrew guard is ¼" mesh screen over three 1" diameter entrance holes. Minor problems with field mice and wasps can be overcome with a reduced lower entrance which helps the bees defend against intruders. A strong healthy colony of honey bees will survive winter provided it has food, shelter and ventilation

FEEDING BEES

It is vital that colonies have sufficient stores of food for winter. Karmo (1975) found that a strong colony (10-15 deep frames of worker bees) in a double brood chamber needs at least 70 lb (32 kg) of honey and pollen to survive winter. Vickery(1991) notes a double brood chamber hive complete with bees and stored food should exceed 110 lb (50 kg). Fall honey is predominantly from asters and it tends to granulate quickly. Bees cannot utilise crystallized honey in winter. All colonies should be fed concentrated sugar syrup to supplement winter stores. This syrup is made by dissolving 2 parts of granulated sugar in 1 part hot water (20 lb. sugar in 1 gallon of water or 9 kg. sugar in 4.5 l water). Some poisoning problems have been experienced with certain types of commercially prepared "high fructose corn" syrup. Do not use this product without advice from the supplier. In areas which do not have a fall nectar flow or in cases where poor weather interfered with the nectar flow, sugar syrup feeding can start earlier. Feeding should continue until mid October at the latest. Feeder pails or feeder trays placed on top of the hive with no disturbance to the colony are best for feeding bees. The container should hold 20-30 lb (9-14 kg) syrup and be easily accessible for refilling. Bees will take approximately 2 gallons (9 l) of sugar syrup. Pollen patties provide a useful supplement of protein.

SHELTER

The location of a colony in winter will contribute to its over winter survival. If the colony is outdoors provide: · shelter with a windbreak on the north side. A grove of evergreens or a fence can provide good wind protection,

- south face for winter sunshine,
- protection from cold air drainage -do not locate in frost hollows,
- protection from accumulated moisture by raising colonies off ground and tilting slightly forward to keep bottom board dry
- insulation in the form of tarpaper, straw bales, insulated foil wrap or purchased winter cases. Colonies can be wrapped singly or in groups,
- a wind deflector over the upper entrance of the hive and
- a reduced lower entrance (3/8" x 4").

VENTILATION

Honey bees produce both heat and moisture. Warm, moist air trapped under a cold inner cover will condense and drip over the colony causing chilling and death. Ventilation is important and this can be achieved with the use of an upper entrance. A small opening in the lip of the inner cover also gives bees an exit in case the lower entrance is blocked by snow or dead bees over winter.

CHECKLIST

- young laying queen
- 10-15 frames healthy bees
- 70 lb food stores (syrup fed)
- varroa treatment completed
- nosema treatment completed
- pollen patty in place
- wind shelter on north side
- south face entrance
- located out of frost hollow
- insulation in place
- upper entrance provided
- lower entrance reduced
- screens in place

Coumaphos / CheckMite

By Extension Apiarist David Ostermann

Now that coumaphos (CheckMite+©) is available for use throughout Manitoba, this is a good time compare the pros and cons of coumaphos and fluvalinate (Apistan©).

These days there is growing concern about the increased use of acaricides fluvalinate and coumaphos to control varroa mite, and their potential for contaminating honey bee products and damaging the bees themselves. At the same time, analytical instrument facilities are getting better at detecting even minute amounts of pesticides in honey and wax.

Studies on the stability of coumaphos and fluvalinate in honey have shown mixed results (Korta et al. 2001). For example, while Thrasyvoulou and Pappas (1988) found that coumaphos concentrations in honey decreased significantly 40 days posttreatment, Korta et al. (2001) found that coumaphos and fluvalinate concentration in honey remained constant over 9 months posttreatment.

All known synthetic lypophilic acaricides, including coumaphos and fluvalinate, are stable in beeswax and their concentration in beeswax increases as the number of acaricide applications increases (Haarmann et al. 2001). Through the process of diffusion, these ingredients migrate from the wax comb into the stored honey.

Fluvalinate binds more strongly to beeswax than coumaphos and therefore coumaphos is more likely than fluvalinate to diffuse from wax and get into the honey. The ratio between brood comb wax and feed has been found to be 1800 - 10000 for fluvalinate (Apistan©) and 300 - 1800 for coumaphos (Perizin©) (Bogdanov et al. 1998).

The persistent presence of subtoxic amounts of acaricides in wax promotes the development of acaricide-resistant varroa mites (Korta et al. 2001). Relatively high concentrations of each chemical (~100+ ppm fluvalinate, ~10+ ppm coumaphos) in beeswax increase mortality of susceptible varroa (Fries et al. 1998).

Studies have found that concentrations of both coumaphos and fluvalinate in honey and wax increase as treatment dose increases and that treatment with these chemicals at higher-than-recommended doses is detrimental to honey bee colonies.

In two commercial queen rearing operations, it was found that treatment with coumaphos was associated with low queen body and ovary weight as well as poor queen rearing success (Haarmann et al. 2001). Fluvalinate is considered not toxic to honey bees (Extension Toxicoloy Network 2001) while coumaphos is considered moderately toxic to honey bees (Extension Toxicoloy Network 2001).

There are a number of things to consider when using a treatment for varroa. Treatment residues can get into honey and wax and there is the possibility that the chemical can adversely affect your colony particularly when it is not applied to manufacturer specifications. CheckMite+© works very well against varroa; however, it is important to keep in mind that most studies on coumaphos, the active ingredient in CheckMite+©, show that it is more toxic to bees and humans and that it is more likely to contaminate honey than fluvalinate. It is best to use CheckMite+© as part of an integrated pest management practice for varroa control, to rotate treatments using the manufacturer's recommended dosage and method of application.

Comparison Notes

[1]One study found the ratio of coumaphos in beeswax to feed to be 300-1,800:1 when using Perizin®, (coumaphos in solution). Fifty mL of Perizin® contains 32 mg coumaphos in solution.

[2]At or near manufacturer's recommended dose.

[3]Extension Toxicoloy Network. 2001. Extoxnet. Pesticide information profile: fluvalinate (http://ace.orst.edu/cgi-bin/mfs/01/pips/fluvalin.htm?#mfs).

Extension Toxicoloy Network. 2001. Extoxnet. Pesticide information profile: coumaphos (http://ace.orst.edu/cgi-bin/mfs/01/pips/coumapho.htm?#mfs).

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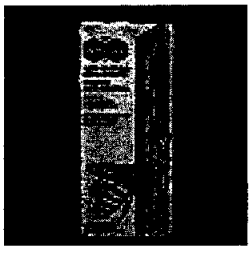


Now that CheckMite+® (10% coumaphos) is available for use throughout Manitoba, it is a good time compare the pros and cons of CheckMite+® and Apistan® (10% fluvalinate). See table below.

	Apistan® (10% Fluvalinate) for varroa control	**CheckMite+® (10% Coumaphos) for varroa control**
Method of application	- Hang strip(s) between brood frames. - Treat all infested colonies within the yard. The treatment is most effective when brood rearing is lowest.	- Hang strip(s) between brood frames. - Treat all infested colonies within the yard. The treatment is most effective when brood rearing is lowest.
Dosage	- Use one strip per 5 combs of bees or less, in each deep brood chamber.	- Use one strip per 5 combs of bees or less, in each deep brood chamber.
Timing	- Treat for 42 days (6 weeks). - In the spring, treat before the first honey flow. In the fall, treat after the last honey flow. - DO NOT keep strips in over winter. - For best chemical distribution, use when daytime high temperatures are at least 10°C (50°F). - Honey supers may be replaced after strips are removed; Treatments must be applied at a time when bees are not producing a surplus honey crop.	- Treat for 42 days (6 weeks). Do not leave strips in hive for more than 45 days (8 weeks). - In the spring, treat before the first honey flow. In the fall, treat after the last honey flow. - DO NOT keep strips in over winter. - Honey supers may be replaced 14 days (2 weeks) after strips are removed; Treatments must be applied at a time when bees are not producing a surplus honey crop.
Chemical class	Fluvalinate is a pyrethroid	Coumaphos is an organophosphate
MRL		0.1 ppm for honey, 100 ppm for beeswax
Residue ratio wax (range) : honey/feed	Fluvalinate-impregnated strip: 1,800-10,000 (wax):1 (honey)	Coumaphos-impregnated strip[1]: Coumaphos is more likely than fluvalinate to diffuse from beeswax and get into honey.
Stability in honey	Studies have shown mixed results	Studies have shown mixed results
Effect on queen health[2]	Little to no	Potentially; strips with coumaphos have been associated with low queen body and ovary weight.
Effect on queen rearing[2]	Little to no	Potentially; strips with coumaphos have been associated with poor queen rearing success when attempting to rear queen cells in hives with coumaphos.
Effect on colony health[3]	"Not toxic" to honey bees	"Moderate hazard" to honey bees
Effect on human health[3]	- Acute toxicity: Fluvalinate is moderately toxic via the oral route, slightly to practically non-toxic via the dermal route, and some formulations of fluvalinate are practically nontoxic via inhalation. - Chemical resistant gloves must be worn when handling the strips.	- Acute toxicity: Coumaphos is highly toxic by ingestion, and moderately toxic by inhalation and dermal absorption. - Chemical resistant gloves must be worn when handling the strips.
Evidence of resistance to product in Manitoba	Yes	No

OUTSIDE WINTERING OF SINGLE BROOD CHAMBER HIVES

By John Pedersen, Gil Pedersen, and Ed Pedersen, owners and operators of Pedersen Brothers Apiaries, Cut Knife Saskatchewan.

We began experimenting with wintering in the early 1980s. Some beekeepers advocated wintering indoors in insulated rooms. These facilities are kept completely dark and have ventilating fans that can force cool air into the room. Others were adamant that outside wintering, using insulated packs, with four hives to a pack, was the route to go. We decided to try some of each method; wintering some in an insulated building, and some in insulated packs outside. Most of the hives which were wintered indoors were in single brood chambers, while the outside wintered were all in double brood configuration. The survival percentage was similar for both types of wintering with a slight edge toward the outside wintered hives. By the spring of 1987, the last year that bees were available from the U.S., we needed to purchase only 100 packages to maintain our roughly 500-hive operation. The rest were from successfully wintered hives plus some splits make during the summer season.

There was an ongoing problem with the inside wintered bees in as much that when the outside air temperature rose above +5°C for more than a couple of days, we did not have enough fan capacity to deep the room cool. After the middle of March it was sometimes necessary to move these hives outside to prevent them from becoming too active in the building. Those hives that were moved outside in early spring would suffer if we then encountered a cold spell.

For the fall of '87 and '88 we continued our practice of wintering the weaker hives inside and the strong two-story hives outside. During the fall of 1988, in addition to the weaker double brood chamber hives that we normally wintered inside, a group of strong double-brood hives was selected for an indoor wintering trial. With these stronger two-brood chamber hives counted, there were about 2/3 singles and 1/3 doubles wintered inside that year. The reason for putting strong two-story hives inside was to see if indoor losses were a direct result of weaker hives, or whether it was the indoor wintering itself that was at fault. The results of the spring of '89 seemed to show that there was a higher loss for indoor wintered vs. outdoor given the same strength of hives.

Our hand, vis-à-vis wintering, was forced when a fire in the summer of '89 destroyed our warehouse. The insulated hot room where we normally wintered our hives was pressed into service for storage of supers. The only usable solution to this problem was to winter everything outside.

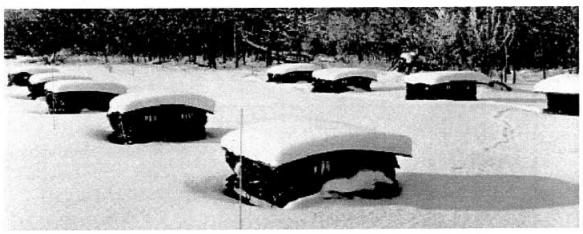
But we were confronted with a dilemma – how were we to deal with hives that were in single brood chambers? Until this time we had taken for granted the "conventional wisdom" which held that to winter successfully outside, the hives had to fill two brood chambers. Our solution was double up the packs of singles.

Packs were made with singles on top of doubles and a few packs with singles on top of singles. To wrap these singles over doubles, we made up narrow packs that went around the top hives and were tucked inside the regular doubles wrap. The singles on top of singles were wrapped with a regular double pack.

Survival of over-wintered bees in the spring of 1990 was good – certainly not the over 20% loss that we experienced in the spring of '89. What was evident, when hives were checked early in the spring, was that in those packs where singles had been placed over other hives, it was the bottom hives of the pack that sustained the higher losses. We theorized that heat from the lower hive leaked upward through the plywood cover separating the two hives. To over come this, we make up some insulated covers to use in subsequent years. These made a marked improvement in the survival of the lower hives in the pack .During the winter of 1989-1990, when we first overwintered everything outside, we worried for fear that we would lose all of the singles. As mentioned above, this did not happen. This outcome encouraged us to try more singles for the winter of 1990-1991. Some of these we left as single story packs. The findings, when we unpacked the next spring, were that there was no significant difference in single story or double-story packs. The overall loss that winter was about 11%, with both singles and doubles close to this figure.

We encountered losses during the spring of 1991 which in retrospect, we should have anticipated. In order to facilitate the inspection of the bottom hives of a pack, we moved the top hives aside. If the bottom hive was alive, then the top hive was moved to another pallet in he same yard. Many of the bees drifted back to the original pack, seriously weakening these relocated hives. We overcame the problem in succeeding years by moving the upper hives to another yard. Incidentally, those hives that were moved were again wrapped so as to avoid a repeat of our experiences of earlier years where hives, moved out of indoor wintering, could not cope with cold weather. Our policy is to keep winter wraps on all hives until mid May.

In as much as the economics favour single over two-story hives, all double brood chamber hives have been phased out. We now confidently winter all of our bees in single brood chambers in outside packs. The fall of 1993 was the first year in which only single story hives were wintered. The decision to phase out all two brood chamber hives was reinforced by the experience of the winter of 1992-1993. That year 542 singles and 66 doubles were packed. Our overall loss for the winter was



In the fall of 1993 we made two decisions about wintering. One was wintering all hives in singles. The other was to eliminate packs with hives on top of other hives. All hives were put into single story packs. Losses in the spring of '94 were about 20%. It was high compared to our experiences over the past several years, but when checking with other beekeepers, we found that they had similar losses. So it would seem that the problem was with the winter, or with the bees before being packed, and not just the single-story wintering.

One wintering application, which we now employ on a regular basis, was discovered by accident. The circumstances of the discovery involved the location of one of our winter yards. It is situated on the south side of a shelterbelt, consisting of three closely spaced rows of deciduous trees. An open field to the north of this shelterbelt allows the wind to pick up snow and push it through the trees. The resulting drifts covered most of the packs completely. It was close to the end of March or later before the snow melted sufficiently for the bees to commence flying. But despite this burial there, was only one dead hive in a yard of forty. When we evaluated the results of this experience we decided to deliberately shovel snow over some packs in other yards the following winter. The results confirmed our previous conclusion, so we now make it a practice, as soon as there is enough snow, to visit all of our yards and completely cover the packs. Our theory is that this method evens out the fluctuations in winter temperatures when it can be -40 °C one week and up to + 10 °C the next. When the interior environment of the hive is evened out in this way, the bees are less prone to begin raising brood too early.

There are many benefits, economic and otherwise, to running only single brood chamber hives. Some of these include:

- The investment in supers and brood combs is reduced by one-half. It must be emphasized that when we talk about using single-brood chamber hives we mean year-round. We do not expand the hives into two brood chambers for the summer and then reduce them to singles for wintering.
- The winter packs require less plastic and insulation to make.
- The ability to assess strength and food resources of a hive when first checked in the spring (not having to guess what is in that bottom brood chamber).
- Less work to clean out dead hives in spring.
- Bees move honey up to the honey supers in summer rather than jamming the brood chamber.
- Easier to find the queen when necessary (we re-queen all of our hives on a regular basis).
- Easier to move hives when needed.
- Easier to check brood combs for disease.
- The hives are not as high, so easier to work (or more supers can be added for the same height).

There are also drawbacks to this method. Factors that some might consider detrimental are as follows:

- Because of the restricted size of the brood chamber, the bees store no significant amount of honey below the excluder. When the last honey supers are removed, feed must be added ASAP, especially if there is no fall flow.
- It is critical to monitor the quality of your brood comb on an ongoing basis. When hives are restricted to only nine frames for brood raising, it is imperative that they are raising worker bees and not drones. We cull all brood combs that have 1% or more of drone cells anywhere on the comb (with the exception of burr comb under the bottom bar). Culling brood combs is something that we have always done, not just because of operating single-story hives.
- It is mandatory to use a queen excluder to confine the queen to the brood chamber; this adds a capital cost. But this is also a management practice that we have employed for many years so as not to have brood in the honey supers.
- After several years of operating single brood chamber hives, we are satisfied that this method has definite economic and labour saving benefits. We are convinced that we can bring our bees through most winters with acceptable losses. There is one caveat that should be added here -the last several years have not had what one could describe as severe winters. Perhaps such a winter will alter our present view of the matter.

World Record Challenge to announce start of Apimondia Ireland

Philip McCabe, chairman of Apimondia Ireland 2005, will attempt to enter the Guinness Book of Records in August next year by wearing a beard of bees. It will mark the beginning of Apimondia Ireland 2005 and is sure to attract international attention.

The Current record holder is Mark Biancaniello, who was covered by a mantle of bees weighing an estimated 87.5 pounds. It was calculated that over 350,000 bees comprised the mantle.

E-Beam Irradiation Offers Relief for AFB

Antibiotic-resistant American Foulbrood (AFB) is a serious microbial infection that can spread rapidly. If left uncontrolled, AFB would eventually lead to the death of the entire honey bee colony. Effective treatments include destroying the equipment or scorching the boxes and melting the comb. These treatments are time consuming and expensive.

Acsion Industries, located in Pinawa Manitoba, offers Electron Beam (EB) treatment as a cost-effective method for decontaminating AFB-infected equipment. EB treatment uses electrical energy and a machine called an accelerator to generate a beam of high-energy electrons. This beam is directed at infected equipment moving past the accelerator on a conveyor belt. The high-energy electrons completely penetrate the equipment killing the bacterium responsible for AFB. The treatment is performed at room temperature, thereby preserving the comb, and no residues remain after the treatment.

Last June, Acsion hosted an open house for members of the MBA. Some 35 beekeepers were on hand to view the treatment of an AFB-infected super. That super was then tested to determine the effectiveness of the treatment. This experiment was part of a project conducted with assistance from Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, and with funding from the Covering New Ground Initiative. The program demonstrated that the EB process is extremely effective in destroying AFB, without causing any observed structural damage to the supers or combs. These results confirm the results found at other EB facilities in North America.

Acsion is looking forward to working with Manitoba beekeepers to control and eliminate AFB. Acsion is in the process of informing local associations on the availability of this effective and affordable method of decontaminating AFB-infected equipment. In addition, Acsion is looking into helping Manitoba beekeepers find the most economical way for packaging, handling and receiving infected equipment into the irradiation facility that best suits the needs of Manitoba's beekeepers and Acsion.

For further information, please contact Don Kost of Acsion Industries at (204) 753-2255, ext 2663, or kost@acsion.com.

Vandals sting bee farmer in damaging honey raids

KELLY PEDRO, Free Press Crime Reporter
2004-09-28 02:24:13

Vandals were busy as bees at one area farm, knocking down hives and even torching one, killing thousands of bees. Mt. Brydges farmer Bev Du Maresq has been stung twice in the last week by vandals, who zeroed in on hives on his Glendon Drive farm.

It appears they tried to steal honey, but couldn't remove the trays, Strathroy-Caradoc Sgt. Rich Holmes said yesterday.

One hive was hit yesterday and three Thursday. One was burned, killing about 5,000 bees.

Du Maresq said whoever tried to take his sweet stuff could have found themselves in a sticky situation.

"I think somebody got stung real bad," he said yesterday, estimating each hive has between 60,000 and 80,000 bees.

He said the bees would have been angry and likely followed culprits messing with their hives.

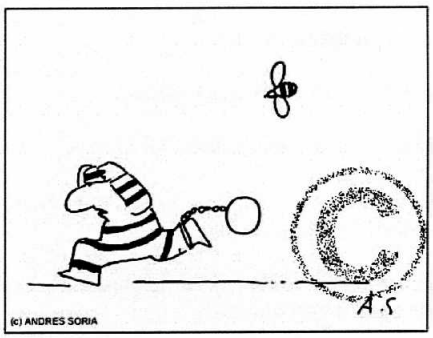
"It could be serious," said Michael Owen, a biology professor and bee-sting expert at the University of Western Ontario.

Owen said several hundred stings could be lethal to someone allergic to bees.

Bee stings emit a scent, alerting other bees nearby, said Owen. In a defensive move, the bees may follow someone for 45 to 90 metres.

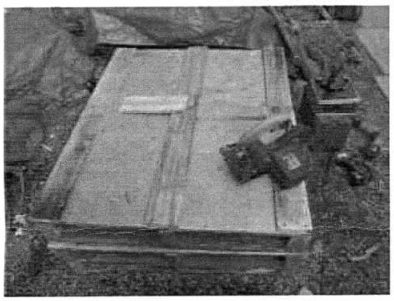
"If you run, that's what they (bees) love to do," said Du Maresq, who's had bees since he moved to the site in 1952.

Police have no suspects.



Bottom Board out of a Pallet

Making bottom boards can be very rewarding as for a job well done after you've produced them. If you have a minimum of 4 hives, then this is not only a huge space saver, but also very functional. If you like keeping bees in an urban area then this is very possible to do. Everything that you will make that will sit on the ground always use shim to level with wood treatment or any wood preserve will do the job very nicely. Some beekeepers that we have been told also use wax the bottom boards as well. Everything that you do to preserve your work will last for many, many years to come.



Producing a 4 way pallet is actually very easy, and very inexpensive. The pallets that we like using can be picked up at any Coop Center, Transport Company, sometimes they are just glad to get rid of them or may charge a small fee usually $5.00 - $10.00 / pallet. The pallets I like using are Blue or Orange and are made from hardwood and

The cost of the plywood is approximately $23.00 ea pending your location and what your lumber store will sell it for. The pallets will tend to last longer then the bottom boards of which is what every Hobbyist / Commercialist is after and not replacing equipment every few years. These pallets are exactly 48"x48" square.This means that you are able to purchase from the local lumber store 1 - 4x8 sheet of plywood (not chip board) & cut the plywood in ½ (4x4). Next Square the plywood on the pallet. Simple tools needed, skill saw, hammer, nails, marker.

Place 4 deep supers on the pallet allowing for landing pad, and to get the needed separation as close as possible. For this job use screws, They will certainly do the job very nicely, and with age as they loosen you can actually re torque the screws down.

For the sides of the centers use ¼" to create the bee space that is needed. After the pallet is complete drill a ¼" hole towards in the back of each bottom. This is allowing for moisture / water to drain from the hives at anytime. You should use Pallet Tops or make enough room for normal hive top covers to fit on the hives. Having colonies palletized is very functional and allows the following:

1) Winter time wrapping is quick & easy

2) Space Saver – Urban Areas / Excellent for Environment

3) Excellent for Pollinating trees

4) Easy Inspecting Colonies in one area.

5) Colonies tend to do better then singular

CLASSIFIEDS

(Free for members.)

Wanted: Looking for a storage space (possibly an out building) for about 300 honey supers and some extracting equipment. . Preferably south of Winnipeg
Please call Dan @ 255-1043 or 797-3322

RED RIVER APIARIST'S ASSOCIATION
2004 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

Please complete and mail with your cheque, for $25.00, payable to: The Red River Apiarists' Association

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ **POSTAL CODE:** _____

CITY: _____ **PROVINCE:** _____ **PHONE:** _____

NEW MEMBER [ ] RENEWAL [ ]

Mail to: Red River Apiarists' Association
Dennis Ross, Treasurer,
Group 40, Box 20, RR2
Lorette, MB R0A 0Y0`