

BeeAware Newsletter



What is really killing bees?

A recent review of existing studies concluded that viruses carried by commercial bees can jump across to wild pollinator populations with potentially devastating effects. One, the deformed wing virus, has recently been identified as an emerging disease in pollinators and its prevalence in commercial honeybees has been linked to its existence in wild bumblebees.

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Hawaii's war on Varroa may benefit Australian beekeepers

The US state of Hawaii is using selective breeding in a bid to win the war against the Varroa mite in the island state. The aim of this breeding program is to breed lines of bees that are well-suited to Hawaiian conditions and are able to defend themselves against Varroa mite, thus reducing the reliance of chemical treatments by beekeepers.

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Nosema ceranae could flourish under global warming

New research in the UK has found the exotic parasite *Nosema ceranae*, which targets honey bees, will increase in prevalence in northern Europe with rising temperatures due to climate change. The study assessed the parasites superior competitive ability and the link between its population size and climate change.

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Climate change could disrupt pollination relationships



New research has revealed that increasing temperatures are causing bees to fly earlier, before flowers have bloomed, resulting in a reduced chance of pollination. Global warming will widen the timeline between bees and flowers emerging, which could potentially have severe implications on crop productivity.

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Multiple stresses could cause colony collapse

An Australian-led team has discovered how multiple stressors trigger a series of events that can quickly lead to colony collapse. The research team found that when external stressors kill too many forager bees at once, it triggers a rapid maturation of the next generation of honey bees. This places an enormous amount of pressure on the bee's highly sophisticated hierarchical communities, which can ultimately lead to the colony collapsing.

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Audit of spray use by SA canola growers

An outbreak of beet western yellows virus in 2014 had caused concern that farmers were misusing chemicals to control the virus vector green peach aphid. Biosecurity SA audited farmers in the state's Mid North, South East and Limestone Coast regions and found that producers were only using registered products according to the label directions.

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Research shows honey bee diseases can strike in all seasons

US Department of Agriculture scientists have found that two pathogens causing mysterious honey bee ailments are a problem not just in Spring, but year-round. Research in the US and Brazil has shown that two species of bacteria, *Spiroplasma melliferum* and *S. apis*, are more common than previously thought and may have a role in colony collapse disorder.

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New pollination agreement section on BeeAware

A new section on the BeeAware site has been published, including information about pollination

New educational resources on BeeAware

Another new section on the BeeAware site is available, including a range of education and

Bayer releases new publication, BEENOW

Bayer has just launched the company's first bee health magazine, *BEENOW*. The bi-annual magazine presents

agreements for both beekeepers and growers.

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training resources.

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Bayer's efforts to unite partners from around the world to jointly tackle the various challenges bees are facing.

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