

Resource Information about Africanized Honey Bees for the Pest Management Industry in the Southeast.

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As the Africanized honey bee continues to expand its range in the southeastern United States, the pest management industry will be increasingly expected to help in protecting public health and welfare by controlling feral colonies that show up in close proximity to people, pets, and livestock.

The most important tools for dealing with Africanized honey bee (AHB) colonies are proper personal protection equipment. A quality bee suit with an integrated hat and veil that zipper to the suit is especially important. Bee gloves are also vital protection when dealing with potentially highly defensive Africanized honey bee colonies.



Figure 1. While no bee suit is 100% sting proof, a good bee suit, with zippered veil and bee gloves will provide a high degree of protection. Photo by Thomas Wright UF/IFAS.

Smokers are used by beekeepers to quiet bees and depress the colonies defensive behavior. They can serve the same function for the bee removal technician. Smokers come in a wide variety of prices, but remember that you get what you pay for. Stainless steel is a little more expensive, but they will not rust. A heat shield and protective cage around the pot will reduce the risk of accidental burns. Larger smokers are better when dealing with AHB because they hold more fuel and can burn longer before refilling. AHB's do respond to smoke and the more smoke the better. Fuels should burn or smolder coolly, produce lots of smoke, and keep smoldering even without pumping the bellows. Beekeepers all have their preferred smoker fuels; pine needles, straw (usually not smoky enough), burlap bags, dried banana leaves, wood chips or sawdust (hickory, apple, maple, citrus), and one commercial fuel uses cotton lint mixed with linseed oil. The tinder to light the fuel can be paper, straw, or pine needles. A fire-proof smoker box is useful to carry / store your smoker to prevent melting or other heat damage to surfaces.



Figure 2. Bee smokers are effective in reducing defensiveness. Stainless steel smokers with heat shield and cage are a good investment. Smoker boxes, as in the background, are useful for transport and fire prevention. Fuels shown in this figure are pine straw, burlap, and an example of a commercial fuel. Photo by W. Kern, UF/IFAS-FLREC.



Figure 3. A bee brush, a scraper for comb removal, and 3 styles of hive tools. Photo by W. Kern, UF/IFAS-FLREC.

Bee keepers have developed many tools that would prove useful to the bee removal technician. Bee brushes are used to move bees to facilitate capture or control. Hive tools come in several designs but all are used to pry wooden hive components apart and scrape comb from surfaces. Bee removal technicians have these same requirements so hive tools are a practical addition to the technician's tool box.

Swarm traps with the swarm lure Nasonov (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nasonov>) are a great management tool for capturing swarms before they invade structures. A combination of wood pulp and asphalt are used to produce an insulated, somewhat weather resistant cavity that swarming honey bees find hospitable. Once they move inside, they are easy to dispatch. It is very important to check these traps regularly; weekly, biweekly, or at the very most monthly. Once the bees have made comb and started brood production, it is no longer a non-defensive swarm. It has become a potentially dangerous, defensive colony.



Figure 4. A swarm trap with a newly arrived swarm hanging below prior to moving inside. Photo by W. Kern, UF/IFAS-FLREC.

To help you find these materials, I have attached a list of beekeeping suppliers.

Sources of bee suits, gloves, swarm traps and supplies.

The listing of these suppliers is for illustrative and educational purposes only and does not represent an endorsement, guarantee, or liability by the University of Florida, the Florida Cooperative Extension Service, or the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. These are not the only suppliers of beekeeping or pest control products available. Readers are always encouraged to critically compare products and prices.

Bee-commerce.com WoodsEnd, Inc., 11 Lilac Lane, Weston, CT 06883 USA
1-800-784-1911 Email: info@bee-commerce.com or blackiston@bee-commerce.com
<http://www.bee-commerce.com/>

BeeCare , P.O.Box 1070, Leander , TX 78646-1070 Office (512)259-4156
FAX (512) 682-9065 Email: markjones@beecare.com <http://www.beecare.com/>

Betterbee , 8 Meader Road, Greenwich, NY 12834 1-800-632-3379 FAX & INFO: 518-692-9802
<http://www.betterbee.com/>

Brushy Mountain Bee Farm. 1-800-233-7929 Email: info@brushymountainbeefarm.com
<http://www.beeequipment.com/>

Dadant & Sons, Inc. (main office) 51 South 2nd St.,Hamilton, IL 62341-1399
Ph: 217-847-3324 Toll Free Order: 1-888-922-1293 (7am-4pm CT)
Fax: 217-847-3660 (24 Hr.) Email: Dadant@dadant.com <http://www.dadant.com/>

Dadant & Sons, Inc. (Florida office) P.O. Box 888, off N.W. 188th St., High Springs, FL 32643
Ph: 904-454-023 Fax: 904-454-0240 Toll Free Order: 1-877-832-3268

Glorybee Foods, 120 N. Seneca Road, PO Box 2744, Eugene, OR 97402
Ph: 1-800-456-7923 Fax: 541-762-7173 Email: info@glorybeefoods.com
<http://glorybeefoods.com/gbf/>

Lapp's Bee Supply Center, P.O Box 278, 500 S. Main St., Reeseville, WI 53579
1-800-321-1960 Email: lappsbeesupply@yahoo.com <http://www.lappsbeesupply.com/>

Mann Lake Ltd., 501 1st St. S., Hackensack, MN 56452-2589
Ph: 1-800-880-7694 (8am-5pm CST) Fax: 218-675-6156
Email: beekeeper@mannelakeltd.com <http://www.mannelakeltd.com/>

Miller Bee Supply, 11562 North NC Highway 16, Millers Creek, NC 28651
Ph: 888-848-5184 Email: woodnwax@earthlink.net <http://www.millerbeesupply.com/>

Walter T. Kelley Company, 807 West Main Street, Clarkson, Kentucky 42726-0240
Phone: (270) 242-2012 Toll Free: 1-800-233-2899 Fax: (270) 242-4801
Email: kellybees@kynet.net <http://www.kelleybees.com/>

Informational Web Sites

BEETOOLS is a great educational site for all things pertaining to beekeeping.
<http://members.aol.com/beetools/>

Ol' Buffalo Beekeeping Page is a link index to beekeeping on the internet.
<http://www.three-peaks.net/beekeep.htm>

University of Florida's Africanized Bee Extension Education Programs website
<http://afbee.ifas.ufl.edu>

