Impact of Mosquito Control on Honey Bees
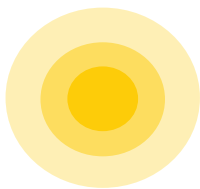
PREVENT & PROTECT

DID YOU KNOW?

Mosquito control that focuses on breeding habitat and mosquitoes that have not reached adulthood do not pose any significant harm to bees. According to the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Bti, a naturally occuring bacterium found in soils, is not harmful to honey bees when used as a larval treatment[1].

Aerial treatment for adult mosquitoes can impact bees outside of their hives; however, there are precautions beekeepers can take to protect their bees. Beekeepers should work with their local mosquito control program to stay informed on treatment times and dates and inform programs where bees are located[2]. Beekeepers can also temporarily cover the tops of hives with plywood that extends out one foot on all sides, creating a spray shadow for insecticide droplets[1].

Mosquito control programs can help protect bees by applying aerial treatment before dawn or after dusk when bees are in their hives. However, it is not always appropriate to treat before dawn or after dusk for certain mosquito species. During aerial treatment for adult mosquitoes, only 2 tablespoons of insecticide are applied per acre (approximately the size of a football field). According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there is no significant difference in honey production between hives in treated and untreated sites over the course of a season[3].
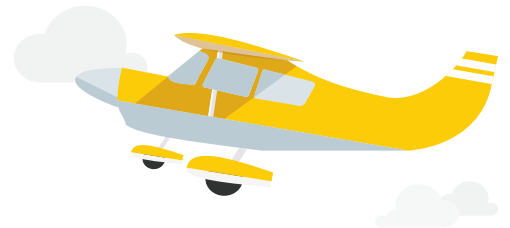
HOW CAN BEEKEEPERS HELP BEES?

COVER TOP OF HIVE WITH PLYWOOD EXTENDING OUT ONE FOOT

STAY INFORMED ON TREATMENT SCHEDULES

WORK WITH MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAMS

ONLY 2 TABLESPOONS OF ADULT MOSQUITO CONTROL TREATMENT ARE APPLIED TO AN AREA THE SIZE OF A

FOOTBALL FIELD

TREATMENT APPLIED AT DAWN OR DUSK

CAN REDUCE EXPOSURE TO BEES

[1] http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/entnemdept/2017/09/22/mosquito-control-florida-beekeepers/
[2] http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in813
[3] https://www.cdc.gov/westnile/vectorcontrol/aerial-spraying.html

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