



Honey Bee FAQ

What do you think of when you think of honey bees? Their honey? Their important role in pollinating crops? Their honeycomb hives? The possibility they'll sting you?

Powerful pollinators!

As you know, honey bees are important pollinators. They visit a wide variety of flowers and plants, and in the process, they transfer pollen from one flower to another, allowing the plants to reproduce. Honey bees are also important to the food system, as they pollinate many of the crops we eat. In fact, honey bees are responsible for pollinating about one-third of the food we eat in the United States. So, the next time you see a honey bee, take a moment to appreciate their hard work!

How and why do bees make honey?

Honey bees make honey by collecting nectar from flowers. They use their long, coiled proboscis to suck up the nectar and then store it in their crop. As they fly back to the hive, they regurgitate the nectar and pass it to other bees. The bees then use enzymes to break down the nectar into glucose and fructose, which they store in honeycombs. Honey is a natural preservative and has been used for thousands of years as a sweetener and a source of energy.

How and why do bees make hives?

Honey bees make hives to store honey and to raise their young. They use wax to build the cells of the honeycomb, and they use the cells to store honey and to raise their young. The queen bee is the only female that can lay eggs, and she is responsible for the growth and development of the colony. The workers bees are responsible for all the other tasks of the colony, including foraging for nectar, building the hive, and caring for the young.

Scared of a honey bee stinging you? Fear not!

Honey bees are not aggressive and will only sting you if they feel threatened. If you see a honey bee, it's best to just leave it alone. If you do get stung, the pain is usually mild and goes away quickly. You can soothe the sting with a cold compress or aloe vera. If you have a severe allergic reaction, you should seek medical attention immediately.

We should appreciate them. We should also remember that they are an introduced species from Europe and that there are over 20 other species of bees that also play crucial roles in the wellbeing of our ecosystems worldwide. Plant diverse wildflowers that bloom throughout the summer and take time to notice the bees!



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