

Beekeepers

BEES KNEES

NEWS

Fun Facts About Bees

Did you know...

- Bees maintain a temperature of 92-93 degrees Fahrenheit in their central brood nest regardless of whether the outside temperature is 110 or -40 degrees.
- Honeybees produce beeswax from eight paired glands on the underside of their abdomen.
- Honeybees must consume about 17-20 pounds of honey to be able to biochemically produce each pound of beeswax.
- Honeybees can fly over 8 miles from their nest in search of food. Usually, however, they fly one or two miles away from their hive to forage on flowers.
- Honeybees are entirely herbivorous when they forage for nectar and pollen but can cannibalize their own brood when stressed.
- Worker honeybees live for about 4 weeks in the spring or summer but up to 6 weeks during the winter.
- Honeybees are almost the only bees with hairy compound eyes.
- The queen may lay 600-800 or even 1,500 eggs each day during her 3 or 4 year lifetime. This daily egg production may equal her own weight. She is constantly fed and groomed by attendant worker bees.
- A populous colony may contain 40,000 to 60,000 bees during continuednext page



Think you know a lot about bees? Test your knowledge with our online quiz at www.beesknees.com

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Honey has been used for millennia as a topical dressing for wounds since microbes cannot live in it. It also produces hydrogen peroxide. Honey has even been used to embalm bodies.

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the late spring or early summer.

- The brain of a worker honeybee is about a cubic millimeter but has the densest neuropile tissue of any animal.
- Honey is 80% sugars and 20% water.
- Fermented honey, known as Mead, is the most ancient fermented beverage. The term "honey moon" originated with the Norse practice of consuming large quantities of Mead during the first month of a marriage.
- Honeybees fly at 15 miles per hour.
- The queen may mate with up to 17 drones over a 1-2 day period of mating flights.
- The queen stores the sperm from these matings in her spermatheca, thus she has a lifetime supply and never mates again.
- A queen bee can control the flow of sperm to fertilize an egg when she is about to lay an egg. Honeybees have an unusual genetic sex determination system known as haplodiploidy. Worker bees are produced from fertilized eggs and have a full (double) set of chromosomes. The males, or drones, develop from unfertilized eggs and are thus haploid with only a single set of chromosomes.

"About 60 percent of the U.S. honey bee supply buzzes around California almond orchards each spring for pollination.

With almond bearing acreage projections of 750,000 acres in 2011, the demand for pollination could require 1.7 million colonies, or 70 percent of the nation's current honey bee supply."

Source: http://westernfarmpress.com/mag/farming_honey_bee_research/

HoneyBee Centre



At Honeybee Centre we produce our own natural honey from a variety of floral nectar sources in British Columbia. All of the honey we sell is pure, natural and unpasteurized, with nothing added. We also offer specialty honey varieties from nectar sources not available in our area, from beekeepers that are well-known to us and that have the same strong commitment to quality.

7480 - 176 Street Surrey, B.C. Canada V3S 8E7

Will You Bee Mine?

A Chinese couple have tied the knot covered in a layer of BEES.

Li Wenhua and Yan Hongxia, who work for the Nanhu forestry commission in Ning'an city, Northern China, have been keeping the creatures for more than 25 years.

So when Li popped the question they decided the only way to make their big day buzz was to invite their bumblebee buddies.

The pair attracted the swarm to them by using queen bees as bait.

Li said: "I have been working with bees for two decades and it was the obvious choice for us for our big day."

His new wife added: "It was an amazing feeling to have a carpet of living bees moving over my body. I could feel them as they moved around — it was amazing.

"I have always loved bees but this was a totally new experience." Luckily, no flower girls were present although there were some buzz about wedding rings.

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After swarming an airplane in Massachusetts and terrorizing clerks at a video game store in New York, bees have once again grabbed the spotlight by serving as wedding attire for a lucky couple from China.

Dark honey has more illness-fighting agents than light honey

By Jim Barlow

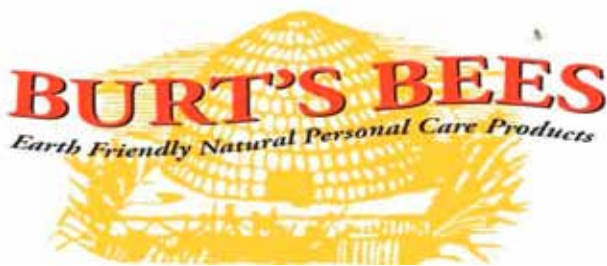
CHAMPAIGN, Ill. -- Honey bees pollinate the crops we eat and provide honey. Where they forage for nectar now has gained nutritional importance: What they eat determines the level of antioxidants in honey, according to new research.

In a study that analyzed 19 samples of honey from 14 different floral sources, University of Illinois scientists found that honey made from nectar collected from Illinois buckwheat flowers packs 20 times continuednext page

Burt's Bees Spa Night

March 8, 2010; 5:30 p.m

Pamper yourself at our famous Burt's Bees Spa Night! Test out everything from foot cremes to clay masks from the natural body care line as our Burt's expert shares advice and tips on taking care of your skin. Snacks, sweet discounts, door prizes, and amazing goodie bags for all! Tickets are \$5 and space is limited, call 604-575-2337 to register.



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the antioxidant punch as that produced by bees that lap up California sage. Clover, perhaps the most common plant source tapped by honey bees, scored in the middle of the rankings. Antioxidants - substances that slow the oxidation of other substances - counter the toxic effects of free radicals, which can cause DNA damage that can lead to age-related problems such as arthritis, strokes and cancer. Free radicals are atoms or molecules that are usually reactive or unstable.

In an article to be published in the Journal of Apicultural Research, the researchers say darker honey has less water and more antioxidants than light-colored honey.

The co-authors of the study -- funded by the Illinois Value-Added Research Program and National Honey Board -- were May Berenbaum, head of the University of Illinois entomology department; Gene E. Robinson, director of the U. of I. bee research facility; and plant biology graduate student Steven M. Frankel.



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Depending on the floral source, honey varies widely in color, water composition and sugar, ash, nitrogen and metal content. The U. of I. researchers gathered and analyzed honeys produced in 1994 and 1995.



In the next issue:



"Beemune" an Irish firm is keeping an eye on the global decline in honeybees and aims to provide solutions for the unexplained deaths of much of the world's bee population. What can you do to help?