



## COMMAND PEST CONTROL

### Information sheet number 8 - The Honey Bee



### Honey Bee

#### **Honey bees are beneficial insects.**

Honeybees, both feral (wild) and colonized, are important beneficial insects, not normally considered as pests. They live either in the wild in nests or as colonies in hives kept by beekeepers. In either case they will only sting people if strongly provoked. Because of their beneficial role every effort should be made to avoid carrying out control treatments against honeybees. Treatment with a pesticide should be considered only as a last resort.

#### **Risks from treated nests**

If foraging non-target honey bees find a nest, which has been treated, they will carry away contaminated honey. This can lead to contamination of honey destined for food use, and the destruction of hives.

#### **Should you ask to treat a Honey bee nest?**

Have honeybees from the nest stung people, or are they at risk because of its location? If the nest is not causing any risk to public health then you should carefully consider the alternatives before asking for a treatment to be carried out.

#### **What precautions should you take?**

If you consider treatment is the only option, make use of the British Beekeepers Association spray liaison scheme. This will enable local beekeepers to be warned by their own spray liaison officer. A list of contact numbers for spray liaison officers is available from regional National Farmers Union offices (NFU) or via the NFU orderline service on 01891 338700.

The British Beekeepers Association can provide advice and can sometimes remove accessible feral honeybee colonies, avoiding the need to use pesticides.

HSE, Pesticides registration section Bootle Merseyside. 0151 951 3535.

British Beekeepers Association. Stoneleigh Warwicks. 01203 696679.

National Bee Unit. CSL. Sand Hutton. 01904 462510.

**For more advice and control recommendations contact us on 01787 248049**