

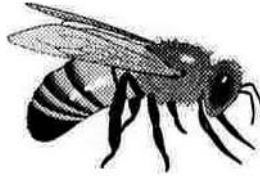
Preparing Schools For Africanized Honey Bees

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Africanized honey bees have arrived in Arkansas. Schools may want to take a few precautions to help protect students. The following are some guidelines for planning for Africanized honey bee safety on and around campus.

1. Designate a school monitor to walk around school grounds daily to look for Africanized honey bee colonies or swarms. Make sure the monitor is trained to recognize honey bees and is properly equipped (has a bee veil available).

The monitor should look for sites that may be attractive to bees for nesting and report to maintenance to remove, cover or repair them. The monitor should remember that honey bees may nest in a variety of sites, ranging from animal burrows in the ground, to hollows in block walls, to overturned flower pots. Utility boxes, water or irrigation valve boxes, playground equipment and drainage pipes are also possibilities. Private property around the school may need to be examined as well, particularly lots or vacant buildings that may be high traffic areas for students arriving at or leaving school.

Keep holes in the ground filled. Cover water valve boxes, rain spouts, etc., with #7 mesh or finer screen. Fill or caulk holes that may give bees access to an internal cavity. Bees

may enter a hole as small as a pencil eraser (3/16" in diameter).

2. If a honey bee swarm or colony is found, the monitor should notify all teachers to keep everyone away from the area. Arrange to have swarms or colonies removed and/or destroyed immediately, even if they haven't been a problem in the past. School administrators should contact the local Cooperative Extension Office or the Arkansas State Plant Board (501-225-1598) directly for instructions. Some monitors may be able to remove swarms if properly trained.

Only licensed professional pest control operators or beekeepers who have received Africanized honey bee training from the Arkansas State Plant Board should try to remove an established colony. Do not allow untrained individuals to spray the colony with pesticides or dump kerosene on the bees. This will only arouse the bees and make them defensive.

Request that the bees be removed after school hours.



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