



Fresh
from
Florida®

Ag-UPDATE



Facts About

Africanized Bees



Bee Informed • Bee Alert • Bee Safe

- Major behavioral differences which distinguish Africanized Bees (AB) from European Honey Bees (EHB) are generally excitability, defensiveness, swarming, and an ability to nest in a wide range of sites.
- Inspect your home or farm once or twice a week during swarming season. Listen for the sound of bees in the air. Persistent buzzing may mean a hive or swarm is nearby. Call a pest control or emergency response agency to handle and remove nests or swarms.
- In case AB attack do not swat at them. Run away covering your face and seek shelter inside a building or car. If stung, gently scrape the stinger off your skin and seek medical attention.
- If AB on farms are disturbed and begin stinging, open gates and cover animals. Move animals to a safe distance. Animals stung repeatedly should be seen by a veterinarian.

Florida's beekeeping industry is vital to Florida's agriculture. Bees pollinate many vegetables, fruits and nuts, in addition to supplying us with honey. Preventive measures can teach us how to coexist in a bee-friendly environment.

To learn more about AB visit:
www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/plantinsp/apiary/apiary.html

www.Florida-Agriculture.com

Dear Florida Agribusiness Leader:

It is the time of year when Africanized Bees swarm throughout Florida. Take the time to learn how to protect your animals and your family. For more information about Africanized bees' defensive nature and our upcoming bee marketing campaign call (850) 488-4132.

The Florida Agricultural Promotional Campaign (FAPC), also known as "Fresh from Florida," promotes more than 280 agricultural commodities grown in the Sunshine State. To learn more about FAPC visit www.Florida-Agriculture.com, e-mail fapc@doacs.state.fl.us, or write to FAPC Program, 407 S. Calhoun Street, Mayo Building Room 425, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0800.

Sincerely,

Charles H. Bronson

Charles H. Bronson, Commissioner of Agriculture

