

Bees – some key points you should be aware of



- Bayer understands the necessity for healthy bees as pollinators for food production. For **more than 25 years**, we have been actively involved in **finding solutions to improve honey bee health**.
- Despite ongoing reports on substantial bee losses in some regions, the overall number of **honey bee colonies worldwide has increased by some 45%** over the last 50 years, not decreased.
- **Bee losses are not a new phenomenon**. Periodic increases in colony losses have been observed for centuries (such as in 1906 on the Isle of Wight, 1975 in Mexico “disappearing syndrome”, and during the 10th century in Ireland).
- In a normal bee lifecycle during the summer season, **some 2,000 worker honey bees will leave the hive to die naturally every day** due to their short lifespan of only 4 - 6 weeks. The dead bees are replaced by newly-hatched bees, so maintaining the colony.
- **The European Honey bee is not a wild animal** but need to be managed in the same way that domestic livestock such as cattle, pigs and sheep are, if they are to remain healthy.
- Scientists and regulatory authorities agree that bee health is a complex issue. Several studies have also indicated that **bee health may be affected by many different factors**, including pests and parasites, microbial diseases, inadequate diet, bee management practices and climate change.



bee care



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- It is widely believed among the scientific community that **Varroa mite is the main factor affecting the health of honey bee colonies.**
- **Bayer conducts in-depth research** into the characteristics of both pesticides and biotech crops from an early stage to ensure that they do not negatively impact non-target species like the honey bees, if applied according to the specific label instructions.
- In **Australia, they have some of the healthiest honey bees in the world** even though crop protection products are used intensively as part of an integrated pest management on farms. A key reason may be that they have no Varroa mite there.
- **Neonicotinoid-based products** have replaced many older agricultural crop protection products because of their **effectiveness in managing harmful pests, excellent operator safety**, and relatively favorable environmental profile.
- Many crops are dependent on pollination, hence bees and agriculture is inherently linked and pollination service should be available to farmers in a sustainable manner. Furthermore, **Bayer is the main user of bee pollination services** for our InVigor canola seeds business in Canada. Therefore, it makes no business sense for us to want to harm honey bees or cause a reduction in colony numbers.



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