

General Information

The Africanized honey bee (AHB) has migrated into California. The first AHB swarms arrived at the southern border of California in October 1993. AHBs are predicted to continue moving northward into other areas of California that domestic European honey bees (EHBs) now inhabit. It is expected that AHBs will eventually replace unmanaged EHBs.



actual size



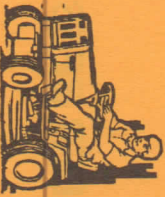
AHB

AHBs look the same and in most ways behave like the EHBs that currently reside in the United States. One very important difference between the two varieties is the ultra defensive behavior AHBs can display while protecting their colony location. In some South American attacks, AHBs have seriously stung or killed pets, livestock, and humans. This behavior has earned AHBs the common name "Killer Bees."

Activities that can cause a stinging attack

AHBs react to activities farther from the colony than EHBs.

Vibration or noise



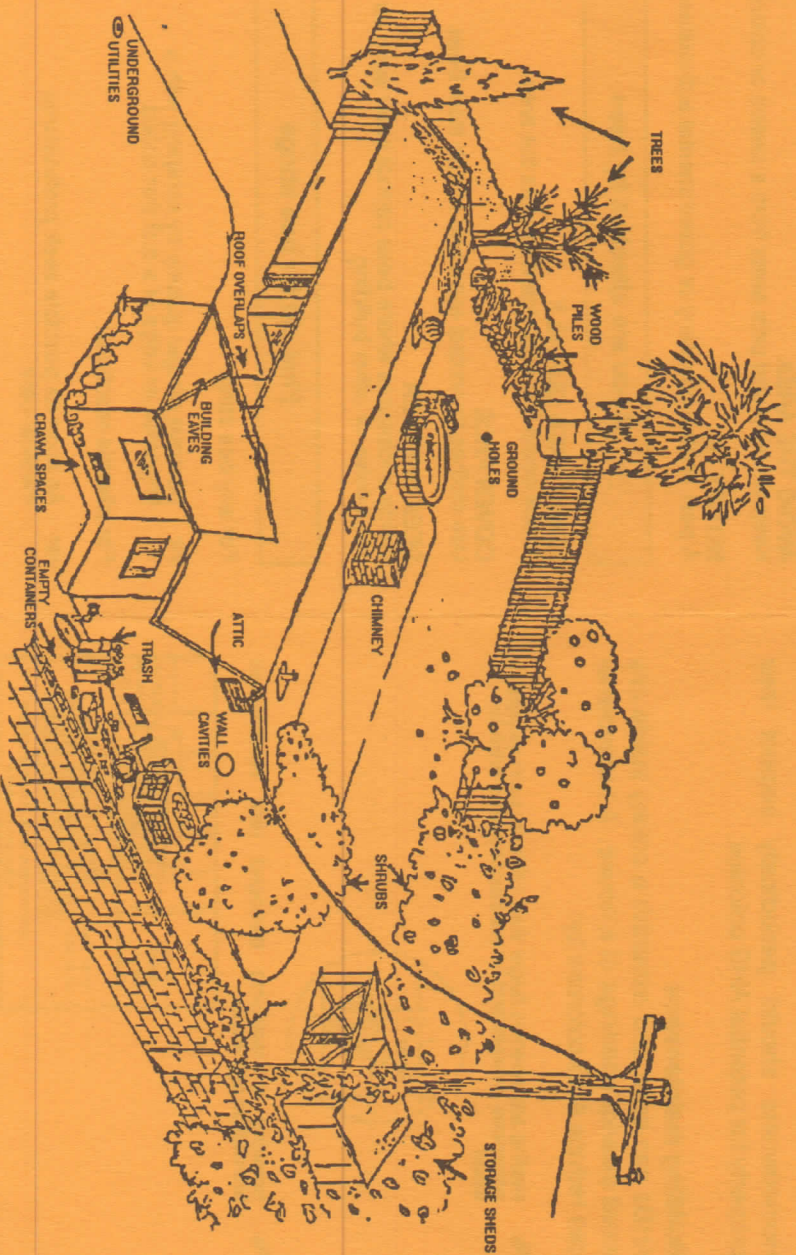
Operation of power equipment within 100 feet or more of colony

Motion



Movement within 50 feet or more of the colony

Potential AHB colony locations around the home



Important differences between AHBs and EHBs

Pursuit distance

AHBs will chase a person a longer distance than EHBs

AHBs..... up to 1/4 mile (4 football fields)

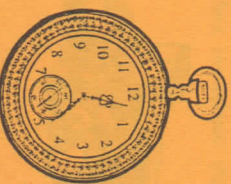


EHBs..... 100 feet (1/3 of a football field)

Defensive reaction period

AHBs will remain agitated longer than EHBs after a colony is disturbed.

AHBs..... 8 or more hours before defensive reaction subsides



EHBs..... perhaps 1 or more hours before defensive reaction subsides completely

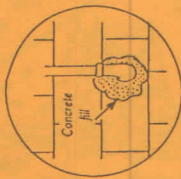
Reducing AHB colonies

Homeowners should periodically inspect their property for potential AHB colonies.

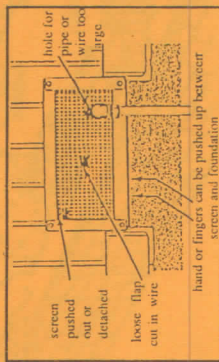
Building maintenance

AHBs can enter and establish a colony inside any small exterior openings of a house. A homeowner can reduce AHB colonies by:

- sealing any opening larger than 1/8 inch, such as pipe entrances on walls and where stucco meets brick or wood



- repairing or replacing damaged vent screens on foundation and eaves



Yard maintenance

AHBs can build colonies on any structure or plant in a yard. A homeowner can reduce AHB colonies and make these sites more visible by:

- trimming overgrown shrubs and trees
- removing empty containers and trash, especially tires and boxes



- filling in ground holes

If you discover a swarm or colony of bees

AVOID THE AREA

Keep children and pets away from a swarm or colony

NOTIFY

A pest control company or governmental authorities

If you are attacked by bees

LEAVE AREA QUICKLY

Attack could last until victim vacates the area

COVER FACE

Use clothes to protect eyes and mouth from bees

SEEK SHELTER

Inside enclosures where bees cannot enter such as a car, house, or other building

First aid for bee stings

For any bee sting:

- Remove stinger quickly by scraping with a fingernail or edge of a dull thin object

For allergic reactions:

- As soon as possible seek professional medical care

- Watch for breathing difficulties

For multiple stings or hypersensitive individuals:

- Immediately get professional medical care
- Do not wait for symptoms to develop

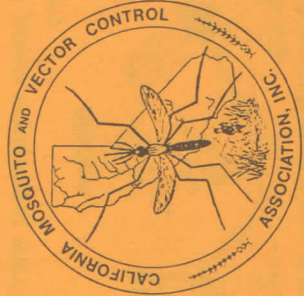
For more information call:

PREPARING FOR AFRICANIZED HONEY BEES



Actual size

ALIAS "KILLER BEES"



K. Boyce & S. Maggy, Sac/Yolo MVCD

K. Costa, SCC VCD

10/93