

# A.R.T. News

## Honey Bees

Honeybees are highly social insects that communicate with each other relaying direction and distance of nectar and pollen sources. Bees make combs of waxy cells placed side by side that provide spaces to nest young and to store honey.

Honeybees live in hives or colonies. A small hive contains about 20,000 bees while some larger hives may have over 100,000 bees. Hives include one queen, hundreds of drones and thousands of worker bees. The worker bees are female but they do not breed. The queen bee is female and creates all of the babies for the hive. The drone bees are male and do not have stingers.

A honeybee colony in a house wall can cause major problems. The bees can chew through the wall and fly inside. They nest inside walls or other interior areas. Their storage of large amounts of honey invites other bees and wasps.

When a bee colony is found in a building wall it must be killed. For immediate removal apply residual insecticide dust or wettable powder formulations around the entrance of the colony. Leave the entrance of the nest open so the bees are able to leave the nest and die.

After the colony is dead remove the nest. If the nest is not removed the wax combs that are normally cooled by the bees will melt and allow honey to flow down through the walls. The walls will have to be replaced because the honey stain can never be removed. The comb wax will attract wax moths that may persist for several years. The dead bees attract carpet beetles. After the nest is removed the entrance hole should be caulked or repaired to prevent further bee infestation.