Montana Pollinator
Education Project

Honey Bee





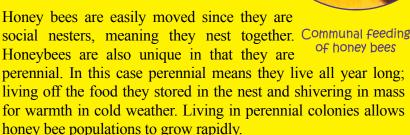
Honey Bees - Apis mellifera

Genus: Apis Family: Apidae
Hairy bees with hair on their eyes too
Black to amber brown bodies
stripes on the abdomen
10-15 mm long and Non-native to America

Ancient scenes show humans seeking out honey from bees thousands of years ago! The honey bee was introduced to America by European settlers as a managed pollinator for honey and pollination of crops.

Mite on the back

of a honey bee



Colonies often have 50,000 or more workers and queens can lay up to 1000 eggs per day. Worker bees will travel far and wide, up to 6 miles for the best nectar for the hive. Females carry moistened pollen on their hind legs.

ARS-USDA, Stephen

Recently honey bee populations have been declining across the United States. One cause is a small mite that attacks the honey bee. Another destructive force for honey bees is Colony Collapse Disorder. The cause of this syndrome which was first documented in 2006 has not been discovered. Although it is unclear what causes colony

collapse, it is clear that the disorder means that all of the adults in a hive will disappear, leaving behind no bodies or trace of what happened. As many as one third of bee hives have been affected. Scientists are working to solve this puzzle, checking to see if the syndrome is spread by communal feeding.