

YOUR NEWSLETTER



Ministry of
Agriculture & Fisheries
New Zealand

OCTOBER 1977 - NO 13

1. Well, what can I say in my opening remarks other than to refer to the terrible weather conditions. I can't remember a more prolonged and wet season in the "Bay" - A couple of sunny days and about seven wet or cold ones. But really - is it all bad?! (do I hear some comments coming through?) The bees generally are very strong and well forward in spite of the adverse season - which leads me to believe that when (? or if) the weather does change for the better, we can expect quite a sudden increase in temperature, and this together with strong hives could result in swarming. Probably three quarters of the hives I've opened up of late have had evidence of cells.



By the time you get this Newsletter it could be history, but if not - be prepared.

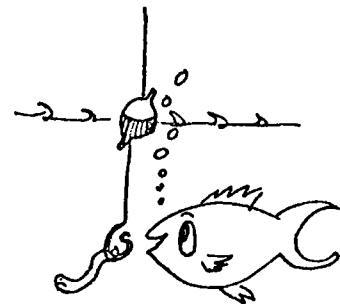
Some of our early spring sources have been disappointing, particularly the Willows - or was it because the bees just didn't get a chance at it.

Rewa rewa is in very heavy bud this year (in fact, at time of writing it has commenced flowering in some places) and those of you in such areas could be in for a crop (weather permitting).



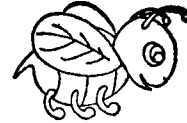
2. POLLEN SHORTAGE
DON'T GET CAUGHT -

With the (!*) season that we have experienced this year it's apparent that in some places there are shortages of Pollen for adequate brood rearing purposes.



This one is worth mentioning again, and that is, that the feeding of Pollen supplement (NOT SUBSTITUTE) should be fed to the bees before the shortage of natural pollen is felt by the bees.

Some of you who are engaged in pollen trapping should automatically watch this one very closely at all times. A pollen supplement recipe (HADACK) was sent out with a previous Newsletter but if you want a further copy drop me a line and I'll be happy to send you one.



3. BLUE-GREEN LUCERNE APHID

Many of you will already be aware of the serious problem over recent times of the Blue-Green aphid becoming established on Lucerne, white clover and red clover.

While natural predators and parasitic fungi will help to reduce Aphid populations, effective control is by application of registered insecticide sprays.

You can well imagine the seriousness of the problem of uncontrolled spraying with insecticides and it is important that honey bee protection is recognised as being of paramount importance in blue-green aphid control. To this end, the provisions of Part (2) Sec. 35 of the Apiaries Act 1969 must be observed. This makes it illegal for a grower to apply sprays or approve the application of sprays which are toxic to honey bees, to any blue-green aphid host crop while it is in flower, or when it contains significant quantities of flowering plants which are attractive to honey bees unless permission is given to apply one of two insecticide materials provided it is applied in the evening where no bees are present on the crops.



4. HAPPY 21ST

The Bay of Plenty Branch of the National Bee Beekeepers Association celebrated their "Coming of Age" last month with a Dinner and evening at one of the City's catering lounges.



It was a great success and many of the "oldies" were present. There was plenty of time to reminisce and judging by the "atmosphere" all present enjoyed recalling that "best of all" seasons or that incident that happens to all beekeepers over the years. (There's one thing about beekeepers (other than not wanting to go home after a branch meeting) and that is that they can always take a good laugh at their own expense)

Some excellent colour slides were shown and this was followed by the screening of the colour film "City of the Bees" (one of the best I've seen).



The evening was brought to a happy conclusion when the wife of the first (late) Branch President cut the 21st cake.

Congratulations to the Branch for 21 years of "Get-to-gether" - and, younger members, yours is the Branch of tomorrow so the gauntlet has been given to you.



5. POLLINATION

A profitable get-to-gether between beekeepers and fruitgrowers was held at Tauranga recently to discuss the "Pollination" service to Kiwifruit growers (and to a lesser extent, pip and stonefruit). These meetings are held annually and only good can come as a result.



In comparison to the number of hives now going into orchards (2200 last season) bee mortality was low - still, no room for complacency.

It was evident from the meeting that the fruitgrowers are indeed trying to prevent this but sometimes it is that "unpredictable" neighbour.

There's been a slight increase in the price from \$20.00 to \$22.00 per hive (high enough I would say).

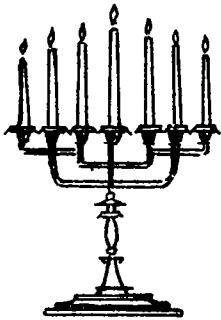
Unfortunately I have heard recently of one beekeeper who is seriously undercutting this figure and this is a disturbing trend.

It's also a good thing for beekeepers engaged in this field to build up a "clientele" - give a good service and they'll (fruities) be back to you again next year - if undercutting or client grabbing is allowed to creep in this could be disastrous in the long term. The demand for hives is increasing annually at the rate of approximately 600 hives (and this could escalate as the greater areas that have been planted over the last 2 - 3 years, comes into production). Play the game, be fair and give a good service - this could mean **\$** in your pockets.

(Keep in mind these poor seasons that so many of you know so much about).



6. CHRISTMAS - NEW YEAR 1977/78



As my next Newsletter won't be coming out till early in the New Year, may I take this opportunity of wishing you a Happy and Prosperous Christmas and New Year.



D A BRISCOE
APIARY INSTRUCTOR

