

2025 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #26a

It is hot, hot, and hotter. May be a good reason to avoid doing inspection -- but regardless of the heat, there are many things beekeepers can do to take care of honeybees. Quick inspections are the norm but the article this week requires beekeepers to take a close look at frames -- especially in weak colonies and stored bee equipment. Bee books written in the 1800's generally considered the wax moth the #1 enemy of honeybees.

Movable frame hives have made it possible for beekeepers to see things long before they happen. Among all the pest that visit bee hives, the wax moth continues to do damage especially to those beekeepers who have no idea of the damage they can cause.

When one has drawn comb in hives and other problems such as colonies with poor queens, population loss due to mites, and poor management, wax moths can add surprises to any beekeeping effort. Those who have frames to store find some nasty results when they remove frames from plastic bags, containers, or stored equipment in a shed or barn.

Thus, with warm weather -- beware of the wax moth!

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