

2025 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #29a

Well, it is summer and we are expecting a feel like temperature of up to 115 degrees today. My bees are bearding on the front of hives, and they get 1/2 day of sun. Maybe a little nectar and no pollen seen on bees returning to hives this morning. At 7:00 a.m. they were flying in good numbers. By 11:00 a.m. little flying activity.

This article is important because it is important to realize that heat will kill honeybees. Don't close up a hive of bees at any time the temperatures are so high. If moving bees, it is best to leave the entrance open if possible. In my commercial days, we moved bees only after the sun was beginning to set and we used a bee net over the load, so entrances were open. Even with a lot of air moving over the load, bees cluster outside of many hives.

A lot has been written about ventilation of bee hives. Like queen excluders, beekeepers have many different views of how bees ventilate a hive. Honeybee hives have been studied, and humans have used information gained to design ventilation units in large buildings -- how air and moisture levels are regulated is important even for humans.

I have noted that it is not normal for honeybees to establish nests in open sun swept locations. They seek shelter in higher locations and often in trees and buildings. Dr. Tom Seeley did considerable work on the size of nesting sites selected by bees. A good read during this hot weather is a book he wrote called, **Honeybee Democracy. Stay inside and enjoy some moving cool air.**

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