National Bee
Pest Surveillance
PROGRAM

About the Program

The National Bee Pest Surveillance Program (NBPSP) is a risk-based program undertaking surveillance at ports that have been evaluated as the highest risk of entry and establishment of European or Asian honey bees and the exotic bee mites they carry.

This risk-based approach is designed to provide early detection through activities occurring at high-risk locations and at a frequency that will detect new pests. This provides the best chance of eradication or containment of pests before they have a chance to spread widely in bee populations and impact pollination services.

The NBPSP involves a range of equipment, tools, activities, and diagnostic techniques to target and provide early detection of nine high priority exotic bee pests, including Varroa mite, Tropilaelaps mite and Tracheal mite.

Program funding

The National Bee Pest Surveillance Program (NBPSP) is funded by Hort Innovation using research and development levies of 14 horticultural industries, with significant contributions from states and territories and co-investment from Australian honey bee industry Levies, Grain Producers Australia and the Australian Government.

The NBPSP is coordinated by Plant Health Australia and delivered by all state and the Northern Territory governments.

Surveillance infographics

In 2022 the National Bee Pest Surveillance Program performed surveillance activities at 22 locations throughout Australia. A total of 3,287 surveillance activities targeting exotic bee pests and exotic pest bees were conducted.

A summary of these activities is provided overleaf.

National Bee
Pest Surveillance
PROGRAM

Surveillance activities in 2022

The below data represents the last 12 months (Jan-Dec 2022) of activities in the program at the highest risk ports as well as in-kind port locations: Port Darwin, Port of Brisbane, Port of Townsville, Port of Melbourne, Port of Geelong, Port of Portland, Westernport, Port Adelaide, Adelaide airport, Fremantle Harbour, Bunbury Port, Geraldton Port, Esperance Port, Port of Albany, Port Botany, Port Kembla, Port of Newcastle, Port of Bell Bay, Hobart, Port of Devonport, Port of Burnie, Norfolk Island.

612
STICKY MAT INSPECTIONS

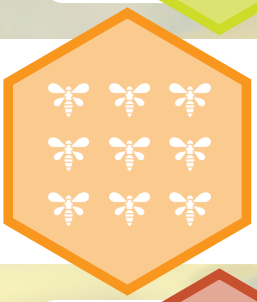
Sticky mat inspections for external bee mites

663
SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES

Additional surveillance activities such as sugar shake, alcohol wash or drone uncapping

514
FRAME INSPECTIONS

Frame inspections for large African hive beetle, Braula fly and small hive beetle



116
SAMPLE COLLECTIONS

Minimum of 3240 adult bees individually dissected for tracheal mites

200
SMALL HIVE BEETLE TRAPS

Small hive beetle traps deployed in NT, WA and TAS

National Bee Pest Surveillance PROGRAM

985
CATCHBOX INSPECTIONS
Undertaken for the presence of European honey bee or Asian honey bee. 1 positive detection in Melbourne

5
SWARM CAPTURES
Swarm captures (excluding swarms found in catchboxes)

166
FLORAL SWEEP NETTING EVENTS
Netting events targeting foraging bees have taken place, with no exotic pest bees detected

12
PELLET DIAGNOSTICS
In QLD there were 12 collections of Rainbow bee eater pellets

14
BALLOONING EVENTS
Aerial ballooning events were conducted in QLD, with no drone bee activity recorded

Varroa destructor detection in NSW sentinel hives

The value and success of years of preparedness and surveillance activities for early detection of high priority pests has come to fruition with the detection of Varroa mite in NSW sentinel hives in June 2022. This detection highlights years of dedicated work by jurisdictions and the ongoing investment by our industries in supporting early detection projects.

The groundwork conducted in the NBPSP including training in surveillance methods and diagnostics, obtaining permits, and working with our international connections during the operational years of the NBPSP has shown successful investment in being equipped and ready to engage from the moment the detection was confirmed.

Australian Honey Bee Industry Council | Plant Health Australia | Hort Innovation | GPA Grain Producers Australia

The National Bee Pest Surveillance Program (NBPSP) is funded by Hort Innovation using research and development levies of 14 horticultural industries, with significant contributions from states and territories and co-investment from Australian honey bee industry Levies, Grain Producers Australia and the Australian Government. The NBPSP is coordinated by Plant Health Australia and delivered by all state and the Northern Territory governments.