

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 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 2023 the NBPSP performed surveillance activities at 22 locations throughout Australia. More than 4,080 surveillance activities targeting exotic bee pests and exotic pest bees were conducted.

A summary of these activities is provided overleaf.

Surveillance activities in 2023

Activities in the program have been conducted 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, Port Botany, Port Kembla, Port of Bell Bay, Hobart, Port of Devonport, Port of Burnie, Triabunna, Flinders Island, Kind island, and Norfolk Island.



1,530
CATCHBOX
INSPECTIONS

Undertaken for the presence of European honey bee or Asian honey bee with no target pests detected



733
FRAME
INSPECTIONS

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



625
SURVEILLANCE
ACTIVITIES

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



605
STICKY MAT
INSPECTIONS

Sticky mat inspections for external bee mites



209
SMALL HIVE
BEEBLE TRAPS

Small hive beetle traps deployed in NT, WA and TAS

National Bee Pest Surveillance PROGRAM



178
**SAMPLE
COLLECTIONS**

Minimum of 5,340
adult bees individually
dissected for tracheal
mites



137
**FLORAL SWEEP
NETTING EVENTS**

Netting events
targeting foraging bees
have taken place, with
no exotic pest bees
detected



48
**PELLET
DIAGNOSTICS**

In QLD and NT there
were 48 collections
of Rainbow bee eater
pellets



8
**BALLOONING
EVENTS**

Aerial ballooning
events were conducted
in QLD and WA, with
no drone bee activity
recorded



9
**SWARM
CAPTURES**

Swarm captures
(excluding swarms
found in catchboxes)