



# Honey Bee FAQ

**What do you think of when you think of honey bees? Their honey? Their important role in pollinating crops? Their honeycomb hives? The possibility they'll sting you?**

## Powerful pollinators!

As you know, honey bees are important pollinators. They visit a wide variety of flowers and plants, and their bodies are covered in pollen. As they fly from flower to flower, they transfer pollen, which is essential for the reproduction of many plants. Honey bees are also important for the production of honey, which is a natural sweetener. They collect nectar from flowers and process it into honey, which they store in their hives. Honey bees are also important for the production of beeswax, which is used in many products, including candles and soaps.

## How and why do bees make honey?

Honey bees make honey by collecting nectar from flowers. They use their long, coiled proboscis to suck up the nectar. Once they have collected the nectar, they fly back to the hive and regurgitate it into a honeycomb cell. The nectar is then processed into honey by the bees. The bees use enzymes to break down the nectar into simpler sugars, and they also add a small amount of their own secretions. The honey is then stored in the honeycomb cell until it is needed.

## How and why do bees make hives?

Honey bees make hives to store honey and to raise their young. The hive is made of wax cells, which are built by the bees. The cells are arranged in a hexagonal pattern, and they are used to store honey and to raise the young. The queen bee is the only female bee in the hive that is able to lay eggs. She lays the eggs in the cells, and the bees take care of the young until they are ready to leave the hive.

## Scared of a honey bee stinging you? Fear not!

Honey bees are generally not aggressive, and they will only sting you if they feel threatened. If you are stung by a honey bee, you should remove the stinger as soon as possible. You can do this by using a credit card or a similar flat object to scrape the stinger out of your skin. Do not use your fingers to pick at the stinger, as this can cause more pain and swelling. After you have removed the stinger, you should wash the area with soap and water. You can also apply a cold compress to the area to reduce the swelling and pain.

**We should appreciate them. We should also remember that they are an introduced species from Europe and that there are over 20 other species of bees that also play crucial roles in the wellbeing of our ecosystems worldwide. Plant diverse wildflowers that bloom throughout the summer and take time to notice the bees!**



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