



# LBKA NEWS

## BBKA STATEMENT ON PESTICIDES

**The British Beekeepers' Association**  
*BBKA - supporting bees and beekeepers*



**BBKA STATEMENT**

Following the decision taken by the EU Commission on Monday 30 April, to impose restrictions on the use of three neonicotinoid pesticides, the BBKA continues to work hard to ensure that the interests of honey bees are a high priority.

It is important that we gain a full understanding of the precise details of the restrictions, their implications and proposed mechanisms by which the Member States, including the UK and its devolved administrations, will implement the proposed restrictions.

We are currently organising meetings with a number of key relevant organisations in order to better understand the ramifications of the recent vote and we will update our members in due course.

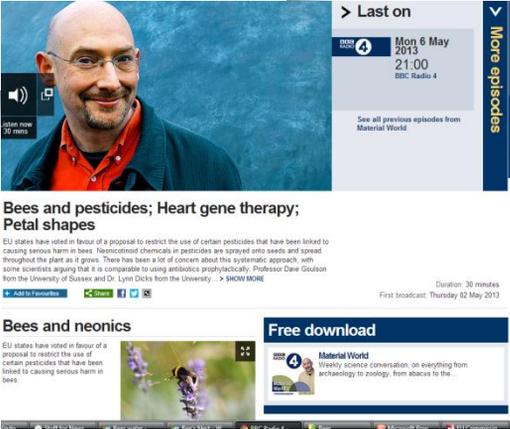
We remain concerned about the impact of the restrictions on our honey bees. We expect the European Commission to ensure that Member States put measures in place which take into account the impact of these restrictions and any resultant changes in agricultural practice or use of pesticides and which must be proven to be safe for honey bees.



**Dr David Aston NDB**  
 Chair BBKA Trustees

Here's a link to **Radio 4 'Material World'** report on what happens post ban and how the ban is not the silver bullet. Professor Dave Goulson from the University of Sussex and Dr. Lynn Dicks from the University of Cambridge discuss the scientific evidence currently available on these pesticides as well as the limited data available on the state of pollinating insects.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01s4sz8>



**Bees and pesticides; Heart gene therapy; Petal shapes**

EU states have voted in favour of a proposal to restrict the use of certain pesticides that have been linked to causing serious harm to bees. Neonicotinoid chemicals in pesticides are sprayed onto seeds and spread throughout the plant as it grows. There has been a lot of concern about this systematic approach, with some scientists arguing that it is comparable to using antibiotics prophylactically. Professor Dave Goulson from the University of Sussex and Dr. Lynn Dicks from the University. > SHOW MORE

Duration: 30 minutes  
 First broadcast: Thursday 02 May 2013

**Bees and neonics**

EU states have voted in favour of a proposal to restrict the use of certain pesticides that have been linked to causing serious harm to bees.

**Free download**

**Material World**  
 Weekly science conversation, on everything from archaeology to zoology, from abacus to the



## MAY IN THE APIARY

### Where should we be with our colonies at this time of year?

May (and June) is all about swarm control. Routine inspections should be made each 7 days to check for queen cells. If 2 brood boxes are used (brood and a half or double brood) then the bees nearly always build some of their queen cells between the 2 boxes. A simple routine check may be made by removing supers then lifting / tilting the upper chamber to inspect the bottom of the frames in the upper box. It is not necessary to remove the queen excluder or all frames using this quick method although it is not foolproof. The only way to be entirely sure is to remove each frame then carefully and systematically inspect each one. Even then a queen cell hidden behind bees may be missed.



**Signs of swarming.** Swarm control action is only needed when 1 or more queen cells are seen. Build up of drones or drone brood is not a sign of swarm preparations. Neither is the building of queen cups unless containing larva and royal jelly.

**Action to be taken.** Quick but not immediate action is required. Do not feel intimidated into taking immediate action. There is time to close up the colony, think matters through and collate necessary equipment. Do not attempt to destroy the queen cell, as this will not remove the swarming impulse. Best solution is Artificial Swarm method but this does depend upon finding the queen. Most beekeeping textbooks cover this method.

#### What if the queen is not marked?

If the queen is unmarked then shook swarm is the sensible option. A spare brood box is needed. It is disruptive for the bees but not harmful. Again, textbooks cover this method.

Other action to be taken this month includes the following:

- Attend the LBKA Bee Diseases day and improve your knowledge of this important area of beekeeping.
- Add supers as necessary, adding another in advance of it being needed by the bees.
- Use May nectar flow to draw out some foundation into drawn frames.
- Check varroa mite drop if not done in April.
- Make sure you have sufficient spare equipment for swarm control.

**Howard Nichols ([education@LBKA.org.uk](mailto:education@LBKA.org.uk))**



## MAY IN THE FORAGE PATCH

The prolonged wintry weather has at last come to an end and late April / first week of May has seen spring arrive with a vengeance. Temperatures have risen from just above freezing to around 20 C on good days and we've all returned to T-shirt weather. As many colonies are struggling to build up after the long winter our flowering plants and trees are rushing into blossom and our poor bees really need to build up fast if they are to have sufficient foragers available to take advantage of the main nectar flow which should shortly follow.

At time of writing in my garden all the fruit trees are now in full bloom with Apple, Pear, Plum, nectarine and cherry all flowering their branches off. All these are great sources of forage for bees. According to some sources, orchard fruit nectar and pollen is very good brood food for developing larva which is exactly what our bees need if colonies are to build up to full strength in time to take advantage of prolific sources of nectar such as Lime, Horse Chestnut and sweet Chestnut which will come into bloom imminently.

Other good sources of forage coming into flower this month include many shrubs such as Ceonothus, Pyracantha, Hebe, and Rosemary. In my garden the flowering currant hedge has already been flowering for several weeks and is frequently visited by my honey bees and bumble bee's such as the Common Carder bee *Bombus pascorum* pictured.

Many of the spring flowering bulbs such as Tulips, Blue bell and anemones are still providing good sources of pollen for bees into May, but they will soon be replaced with spring herbaceous plants such as Pulmonaria, Campanula's, Thyme's, Aquilegias (which are very good for bumble bees) Centuræ montana, Ameria maritima, Coreopsis. Plants such as Forget-me-not continue to be useful to bees well into May along with Wall flower and Dandelion.

Now is a good time to be thinking about planting out your late summer flowering plants, get plants such as Agastachi (the bees no.1 favourite) in the ground now so they have time to become well established and provide nectar for bees all summer long. Now is also a good time to divide and re-plant clump forming plants such as Helleniums and Sedum Spectable before they get too large, and to take soft cuttings from plants like the Agastachi black adder which is a sterile hybrid and dose not grow from seed.

This month I am planting out my hanging baskets with bees in mind. I'm planting Tagettes star fire mix with yellow-orange wall flower, fiery red trailing nasturtiums, orange Nemesia, bidens, fiery red Geum, bright orange mini trailing Petunia, Snap Dragons and creeping Jenny to create a hot mix of colour that will also be attractive to pollinators. Pictures to follow in next months newsletter and on our Facebook and twitter pages.

This month is the last chance to get your LBKA pollinator friendly seeds into the ground in time for July flowering

**Mark Patterson, LBKA Forage Officer**



**Common Carder bee  
*Bombus pascorum***



**Honey bee on Pear blossom**



## MEMBERS' NOTICE BOARD

'I wondered whether the newsletter readers would be interested in knowing that these three substances have been found in may common over the counter pesticides, (e.g. Rose Clear), and users might want to check before using in their gardens, (i.e. [clothianidin](#), [thiamethoxam](#) and [imidacloprid](#)).' LBKA Member

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Bee Health Day: Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May

A reminder that we have the unmissable FERA Bee Health Day at Roots and Shoots this coming Sunday 19th. This is a free event for members and is really worthwhile.

It is run by the National Bee Unit and it is an absolutely invaluable event for beekeepers at all levels because it is focused very much of bee health and diseases. It is free of charge. There's a workshop on 'How to Keep My Bees Alive'. There are still some places left so email [admin@lbka.org.uk](mailto:admin@lbka.org.uk) to book a slot.

**9.45am – 4pm at Roots & Shoots, Walnut Tree Walk, Kennington, SE11 6DN**

### Pollinators and pesticides: is there a plan bee? 26<sup>th</sup> June

26 June 2013, 6.20pm - 8.30pm (Doors open at 6.00pm), Price: £5

The British Library hosts a lecture as part of its Talk Science series. BBC Presenter and Beekeeper, Bill Turnbull, with speakers: Dr David Aston, The British Beekeepers Association, Dr. Peter Campbell, Syngenta and Dr. Lynn Dicks, University of Cambridge discuss the issues. Please be aware that tickets must be pre-booked via the [Box Office](#).

The screenshot shows a webpage from the British Library. At the top left is the 'BRITISH LIBRARY' logo. The main header reads 'SCIENCE STIMULATE YOUR THINKING'. Below this is a breadcrumb trail: 'bluk > Help for researchers Home > Find help by subject > Science, technology and medicine > Science at the British Library > TalkScience > Our Next Event'. The main content area features a blue box with the event title 'Pollinators and pesticides: is there a plan bee?' and details: '26 June 2013, 6.20pm - 8.30pm (Doors open at 6.00pm)', 'Price: £5', and a note: 'Please be aware that tickets must be pre-booked via the Box Office'. Below this is a paragraph of text: 'Overworked, suffering a lack of available housing while living off a caffeine-rich sugar diet, bees are not happy. Pollinators, including bees, provide a free pollination service to fruit orchards, bean and rapeseed oil farms worth an estimated £440 million to the UK economy. However, as farming practices have become more intensive to meet growing food demands, pollinator and bee numbers have declined. Bees are suffering habitat loss, fungal and viral infections and attacks from parasitic varroa mites. To add to the mix, researchers are now finding that certain pesticides used to protect crops may be harmful to bees. Are these pesticides the real culprit for the decline in bee numbers? Do we have to choose between sustaining pollinators and using pesticides?'. Below the text is a list of speakers: 'Join our chair, BBC Presenter and Beekeeper, Bill Turnbull, with speakers: Dr David Aston, The British Beekeepers Association, Dr. Peter Campbell, Syngenta and Dr. Lynn Dicks, University of Cambridge.' At the bottom of the text block is a link: 'Click here to book.'. On the right side of the page, there is a search bar labeled 'Search Help for researchers' and a list of navigation links: 'In our Reading Rooms', 'With the help of our experts', 'Online or by post', and 'Full list of online catalogues'.