

Beneficial Insects



From National Geographic

Honey Bees

Honey bees were introduced into the U.S. from Europe in the 1600's. They play a very important role in pollinating flowers, fruits, and vegetables. Honey bees live in hives and there are three types of bees in the hive.

The queen, who runs the entire hive and lays eggs to create the next generation of bees. The workers, who find food (pollen and nectar from flowers) as well as build and protect the hive. Workers are all females and are usually the only bees we see flying outside the hive. In a single year, one honey bee colony can gather about 40 pounds of pollen and 265 pounds of nectar. The workers produce honey as food for the hive, but they typically produce 2-3 times more than they need. That's why there's honey available for people to enjoy!

The drones are the male bees who mate with the queen. However, when cold weather sets in the drones are kicked out of the hive.