

Cranky Bees

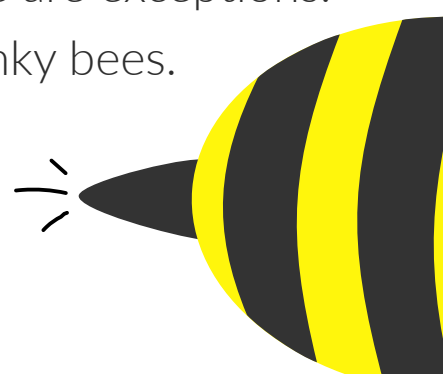
A gardener's guide

Christelinda Laureijs

CrankyBeeArt.com

Most bees in your garden are calm and gentle, but there are exceptions. Here's a summary of what you need to know about cranky bees.

What makes bees cranky?



Bad weather

Hot, humid weather can affect honey production. And, as winter approaches, bees become more aggressive and territorial.



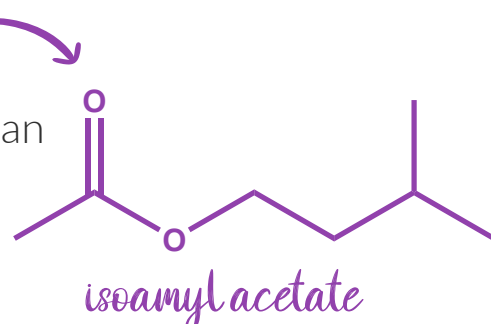
Fast movement

I'd be angry too if I were almost squished! Bees often feel threatened by fast movement.



Bananas

Bananas contain **isoamyl acetate**, an active component of a bee alarm pheromone.



Nectar shortage

Bees are very territorial when food is short. During widespread food shortages, bees can experience attacks from competing bee colonies.



Perfumes

Perfumes and fragrances can interfere with pheromones, one of the main methods of bee communication.



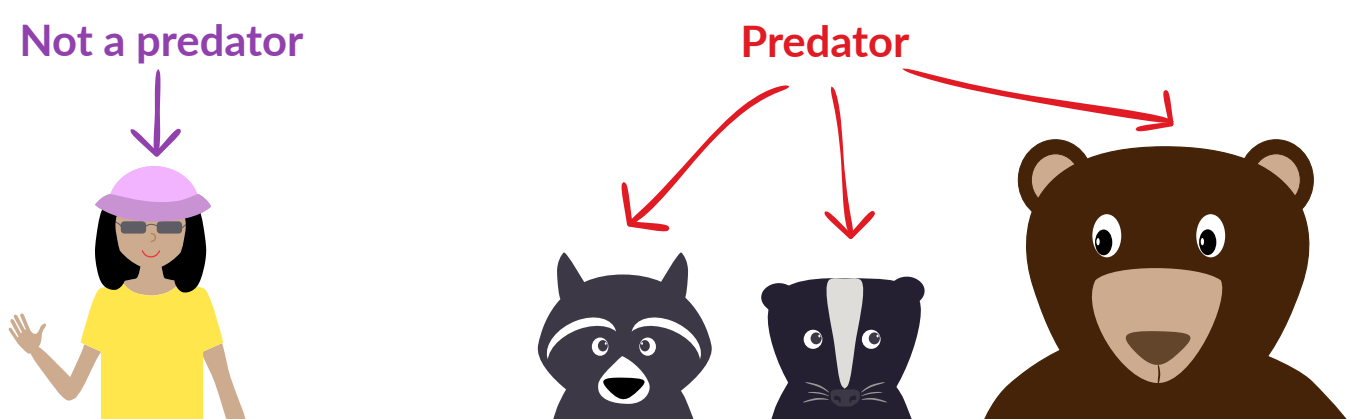
Overcrowding

Do you get cranky and anxious when there's not enough room? Bees can do the same.

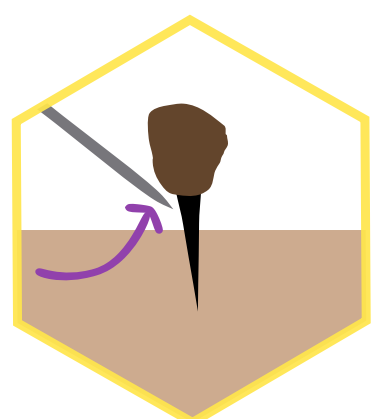
Sting prevention

- 1 Remember that bees won't attack you unless they feel threatened.
- 2 Move calmly and slowly away, don't flap and run! Never, EVER swat at a bee!
- 3 Avoid scented products and fragrances when outside.
- 4 Wear light coloured clothing to avoid getting mistaken for a bee predator.

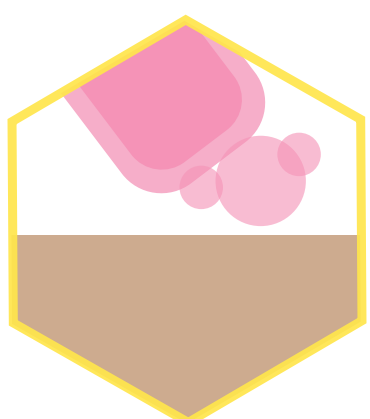
(see below for a helpful diagram)



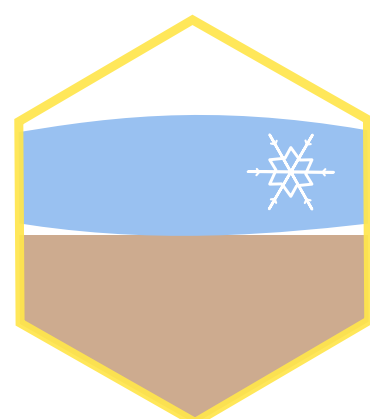
Uh, oh! You got stung by a bee. What next?



Remove the stinger as quickly as possible: flick up and away with a thin object



Wash the area with soap and water



Apply a cold compress

If you experience difficulty breathing, swelling, or nausea, call 911 and get help fast!

References

Bee Hour. (2019, March 10). Why Do Bees Become Aggressive and How to Calm Down Your Beehive? <https://beehour.com/how-to-calm-down-aggressive-bees/>

Bee sting—Diagnosis and treatment. (n.d.). Mayo Clinic. <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/bee-stings/diagnosis-treatment/drc-20353874>

Caughey, M. (2020, June 24). Top 7 Reasons for Cranky Bees. Keeping Backyard Bees. <https://www.keepingbackyardbees.com/top-7-reasons-for-cranky-bees/>

Derrick, S. (2017, August 14). Put Down That Banana, Beekeeper. Blythwood Bee Company. <https://blythwoodbeecompany.com/blogs/news/put-down-that-banana-beekeeper>

Miller, K. (2018, October 10). 7 Tips to Prevent Bee and Wasp Stings When Exploring the Great Outdoors. SELF. <https://www.self.com/story/avoid-bee-and-wasp-stings>