



You may meet bees busying themselves doing a variety of activities; here's what to do when encountering honey bees:

### Foraging

- ◆ Bees forage around flowers and water, they are intent upon their task of collecting food and water and returning to the colony. They are generally harmless unless disturbed accidentally or intentionally.
- ◆ Avoid close contact with foraging bees, leave them alone and they will leave you alone.



### Nesting

- ◆ Bees seen moving in and out of a void via a small entrance hole or crack (may be in a block wall, tree trunk, roof, etc.) are maintaining the colony housed within.
- ◆ The sooner the observation is reported to your IPM Specialist the easier the colony will be to remediate. Established colonies are extremely protective of their brood (baby bees), they will attack in defense. **Do not** give them cause to see you as a threat. Your IPM Specialist or Pest Management Professional is the expert and has the knowledge and equipment to deal with colonies safely.

### Swarming

- ◆ Swarming is a normal part of the bee reproductive cycle and most bees are not dangerous when they swarm; however, they are protective of their queen, even while swarming. Swarms appear as either an air-borne ball of bees or a clump of resting bees. They are intent upon finding a suitable home and after a rest they will move on, usually within 48 hours.
- ◆ Avoid contact with swarming bees. Move away from approaching swarms if you see or hear them coming. **DO NOT** disturb swarms which stop in trees or on walls or the ground. The queen is tired and the swarm may attack if a threat is perceived. Report swarms to your IPM Specialist.

### Honey Bee Facts:

- ◆ Assume all wild bee colonies in Arizona are Africanized bees.
- ◆ Africanized bees are highly defensive and easily agitated. In as little as three seconds, they respond to perceived threats with considerable force.
- ◆ Africanized honey bees will pursue a perceived antagonist as far as 1/4 of a mile.
- ◆ Watch for bees when operating gas-powered mowers, blowers, or other yard maintenance machinery. Africanized honey bees are easily disturbed by the vibration and exhaust.

### If bees are checking you out

- ◆ Stop still!
- ◆ Cover eyes with hands
- ◆ Look through fingers to locate nest or swarm
- ◆ Walk away from the bees slowly, keeping hands over face.

**Eye ball to eye ball with a bee**

### If you have been stung

- ◆ **DO NOT FLAP!!! DO NOT PANIC!!!**
- ◆ Cover face and head with clothing or hands
- ◆ Run into a home or shelter
- ◆ Do not dive into a pool
- ◆ If out in the open run at least the length of two football fields

**Bumped or stung by bees**

