

Small Hive Beetle Update, July 14, 2017

The following is an update on the quarantined honey bee colonies used for wild blueberry pollination in the Acadian Peninsula as a result of the small hive beetle (SHB), *Aethina tumida* Murray, being found in imported colonies from one Ontario beekeeper.

All Ontario and Quebec quarantined colonies have returned to their province of origin and the New Brunswick quarantined colonies have returned to isolated areas near their home apiaries.

The NB Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries in collaboration with the New Brunswick Beekeepers' Association is carrying out an enhanced monitoring project for the SHB in the quarantined NB honey bee colonies. Monitoring has started on colonies from eight of the twelve quarantined NB beekeepers' colonies. To date, two suspected small hive beetles have been found and sent to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada for identification. The enhanced monitoring project will take approximately ten weeks to complete.

Small Hive Beetle Update, June 21, 2017

An invasive honey bee pest, the small hive beetle, *Aethina tumida* Murray has been reported in New Brunswick for the first time.

Previously, the presence of small hive beetles had never been reported in New Brunswick; however, over the past decade colonies infested with this beetle have been confirmed in Ontario, Maine as well as many other US States. Consequently, in 2016, the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries increased its monitoring program for small hive beetle in NB and imposed enhanced import inspection requirements for honey bees from provinces where the small hive beetle had been reported.

This year, the small hive beetle was found in honey bee colonies belonging to one beekeeper from Ontario. The colonies were used for pollination in wild blueberry fields in the Acadian Peninsula at the following locations: Val Doucet; Tilley Road, Lord and Foy; Block F; Brantville; Kenny Portage and Pointe à Tom. The findings have also been reported to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, to other provincial apiarists and to the New Brunswick Beekeepers' Association.

As of June 21, six beekeepers from Ontario, one beekeeper from Quebec and eleven beekeepers from New Brunswick had honey bee colonies quarantined by either the Provincial Apiarist or the Chief Apiary Inspector. These colonies were quarantined because they were located within approximately 2-3 km radius from confirmed findings of small hive beetle which put them at risk of becoming infested with small hive beetle.

Approval has been granted for out of province colonies in quarantine to return to Ontario and Quebec under specific conditions, including covering hives with mesh and requiring that they return directly to their province of origin. These quarantined colonies were to be removed from NB before ten percent bloom remains on the blueberry plant or no later than June 22, 2017.

New Brunswick colonies may be removed from their current quarantined location and relocated to isolated sites where they will remain in quarantine. Beekeepers are being informed of the specific requirements for the movement and management of these colonies.

During the next few months, the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries, in partnership with the New Brunswick Beekeepers' Association, will intensify its monitoring program for the small hive beetle.

For more information on small hive beetle, visit:

<http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/10/agriculture/content/bees.html>