

Cumbria Bee Times

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(Views expressed in this newsletter are those of the editor and do not necessarily represent those of the CBKA)

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European Foul Brood in South Cumbria

Yet again the SBI has identified an outbreak of EFB in the County this time in S. Cumbria within the 10km sq SD 38.

EFB is caused by the bacterium *Melissococcus plutonius*. Larvae become infected by consuming contaminated food fed by the nurse bees. The bacteria multiply within the larval gut, competing with it for food. They remain in the gut and do not invade larval tissue; larvae that die from the disease do so because they have been starved of food. This normally occurs shortly before the cells are capped.

Symptoms of EFB

An infected colony may show some or all of the signs below:

1. Erratic or uneven brood pattern
2. Twisted larvae with creamy-white gut visible through the body wall
3. Melted down, yellowy white larvae
4. An unpleasant sour odour
5. Loosely-attached brown scales
6. Unlike AFB the remains of the larvae **do not** rope when drawn out with a matchstick.

As with AFB the beekeeper is the primary method of spread, transferring items (eg brood comb) from an infected hive to a healthy hive. Swarming and robbing also spread this bacterial infection.

If you have concerns about possible EFB in your apiary call your Bee Inspector.



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Cockermouth Autumn Conference October 6th

Embleton Village Hall
Admission £5.00

Time : 9.00 -5.00

Topics: Swarming etc , Queens and things,
Shook swarms, The life of a RBI

Speakers: Ian Molyneux and Gerry Collins

Lunch 12.30 (Bar meals £7.95 available next door
Order on the day.)

Further details from the Cockermouth Secretary

Microscopy at Whitehaven October 13th

Whitehaven and District Branch will be running another Microscopy course this Autumn. This year the emphasis will be on Pollen. Again there will be help and tuition for those who are uncertain about microscopes, slide preparation and stain methods. The cost is £30.00 for the day(W&DBKs £25.00)

For further details contact the W&D Secretary

Annual Cumbria Beekeepers Conference and Honey Show November 10th

Newbiggin Village Hall(nr Penrith)

This is the same venue as the 2011 Honey Show. There is plenty of parking available and the committee hope that as Penrith is fairly central many members will be able to come.

Richard & Anne Kenyon

Burnsmead Farm

Little Urswick, Ulverston

Tel 01229 869363

A hive for all your Apiary equipment

Honey Jar recycling

For those beekeepers lucky enough to have honey to bottle this year there is an interesting response by the Food Standards Agency to a query from a Somerset Beekeeper in this month's BBKA newsletter.

"Legislation precludes the re-use of glass honey jars for any commercial food use, even following stringent cleaning, because the train of documentation which shows they are compliant with European regulations has been broken (principally Article 3 of Regulation 1935/2004)"

For more information on this ruling go to the Agency guidance on the re-use of food contact materials which can be found at: <http://www.food.gov.uk/safereating/chemsafe/packagingbranch/packagingreuse>

Pennine Bee Supplies

Agents for Thorne.

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Olympic Park gardens and meadows in bloom

Over 60,000 plants, grasses, herbs and flowers from across the globe were grown in an Ashford nursery and planted along with 60,000 bulbs in the Olympic Park London 2012 Garden.

The riverside garden stretches for half a mile between the Aquatics Centre and Olympic Stadium and celebrates centuries of British passion for gardens and collecting plants. Over 120,000 plants from 250 different species across the world have been arranged into four temperate regions in the garden: Europe, Americas, Asia and the Southern Hemisphere.

Over ten hectares of annual and perennial meadows were created in the Olympic Park, designed and sown to flower during the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The annual meadows around the Olympic Stadium are a vivid combination of tickseed, cornflower, corn marigold, star of the veldt from South Africa, Californian poppy and Plains Coreopsis that moves from yellow and blue in July to gold in August.

A combination of shorter and taller perennial meadows, which require only a single seeding, have been sown across the Olympic Park, mainly in the north of the parklands.

The shorter meadows on drier sunny slope are a colourful mix of Thyme, Calamint, oringanium, vipers bugloss and wild carrot. The taller meadows on shadier slopes include musk mallow, meadow cranesbill, devils bit scabious, red clover, bloody cranesbill and great burnet.

The meadows have been designed to be nectar and pollen rich, diverse and with a long flowering season to encourage a range of bees, butterflies, birds, moths and other insects. Specific plants and flower species have been selected to encourage particular wildlife, for example the Marsh Fritillary butterfly need Devils Bit Scabious for their caterpillars and Burnet Moths congregate around Knapweed flowers.

The meadows have being sown in especially designed low nutrient soil, with a high sand content, to ensure a diverse mix of flowers and to discourage weeds.

After the Games the meadows will gradually incorporate a range of grasses, naturally and through oversowing, so that they become self-sustaining.

Honey bees at the Olympics!

