

Killer Bees... Why do bees sting?



- ◉ Stinging is a natural response of honey bees to a real or a perceived threat.
- ◉ By stinging, the guard bees attempt to chase away whoever or whatever is threatening them

1

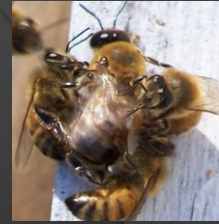
What Aggravates Honeybees provoking them to sting?



- ◉ Loud vibrating noises (tractor, mower, chainsaw, blower, loud knocks on the hive etc.)
- ◉ Fast jerky motions
- ◉ Strong odor (tobacco, cologne, BO etc.)

2

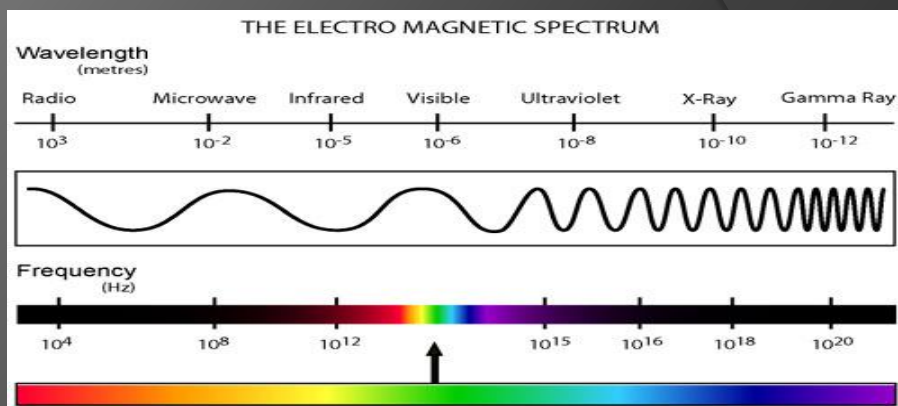
What Aggravates Honeybees provoking them to sting?



- Killing or injuring a bee
- Standing in front of a hive entrance in the path of their flight pattern
- Opening a hive in cold or stormy weather
- Opening a hive after transporting it to a new location
- Dark red, black wooly clothing

3

Colors the bees can see



- Humans see Red – Violet (10^{12} - 10^{15} Hz)
- Bees see Yellow – Ultraviolet (10^{13} – 10^{16} Hz)

4

Using Machinery to work around bees

- ⦿ Since noise and vibration aggravates bees...
- ⦿ And you have to use loud machinery for mowing, weed-eating etc...
- ⦿ Avoiding being attacked by bees is your goal
 - Work at night using red light headlights; the bees can't see red, so you are invisible to them
 - Work on a rainy day; the bees don't fly in rainy weather
 - Work on a cold day below 50F; the bees stay inside on a cold day

5

Africanized Killer Bees

- ⦿ Same size as any other breed
- ⦿ Same looks
- ⦿ Good productivity
- ⦿ High aggression
- ⦿ Crossbreed (African + Italian)



6

A swarm accidentally escaped from a lab in Brazil in 1957



7

US Occurrence 2014



8

A swarm on a man

- ◎ The swarm in this photo is not attacking - just resting...
- ◎ An Africanized bee attack would look similar... except, they would be stinging... and the man would be running for his life...
- ◎ It takes about 300 stings for an average person to die...

