Agricultural Sprays

Products
* Let your beekeeper know the agricultural sprays used for crop protection, including tank mixes.

Application and Timing
* Honey bees come in contact with agricultural sprays in different ways:
  - Bees may fly through the spray
  - Sprays may drift to hives via wind
  - Bees may collect and bring into the hive pollen that contains chemical residue

* Management practices to minimize contact are:
  - Spray when honey bees are not flying
  - Spray when pollen is not being produced by the tree
  - Time applications late in the afternoon or at night.

Pollination Contracts
* A signed contract protects both grower and beekeeper.

* Secure contracts early for the following pollination season so beekeepers will make the investment in colony health and strength.
* When colonies arrive in the orchard, check colony strength.
  - 8 to 10 frames is optimum
* An objective third party inspection of colonies will indicate if contractual obligations have been met.
* Allow your beekeeper time and opportunity to provide additional colonies if needed.
* Walk your orchard during honey bee flight hours to make sure you see plenty of bee activity.

Project Apism
Best Management Practices
For Almond Growers

www.ProjectApism.org
Honey Bee Nutrition

Forage
* If possible, help your beekeeper locate flowering forage prior to and after almond bloom to offset dearth.
  - On adjacent acreage
  - At perimeter of orchard
  - Within younger orchards
  - On fallow land
* Good examples of alternative food resources are mustard, clover or vetch.

Water
* Water is important to prevent dehydration.
* Provide abundant and potable water, free from contamination.
* Landings and screens make water accessible and prevent bee drownings.

Hive Placement

Location
* The distribution of colonies should be accessible and convenient at all hours.
  - Beekeepers need to place, service and remove hives routinely.
* Orchard roads should be maintained and graded for easy access.
* Allow for hive placement in areas not prone to flooding or shade.
* Eastern and southern exposures are better for sun and warmer temperatures and encourage bee flight for pollination.
* Let bees do their job, place hives as to limit human and honey bee interaction.

How Can You Help?

I am supporting the work of Project Apis m. (PAm) in its commitment to honey bee health and research in the amount of $___________.

Mail your donation to:
Project Apis m.
6775 Chardonnay Road
Paso Robles, CA 93446
www.ProjectApis.org

Thank you for your support!

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