



31 August 2022

## Remaining vigilant against the threat of varroa mite

Although Queensland remains free of varroa mite (*Varroa destructor*), Biosecurity Queensland continues to be vigilant to minimise the risk of this pest entering our state.

Following consultation with the Queensland Beekeeper's Association, biosecurity instrument permit conditions have been developed for those bees, hives, and equipment returning to Queensland from attending the 2022 almond pollination event in Victoria and South Australia.

The conditions have been developed to ensure that the returning hives are a very low risk of carrying varroa mite, consistent with how the Australian Government manages international trade risks.

Returning beekeepers are required to apply for and be granted a biosecurity instrument permit prior to entry into Queensland. Conditions include:

- Returning beekeepers are required to demonstrate that their hives have been tested for varroa mite using an alcohol wash plus drone/worker brood uncapping before leaving Victoria or South Australia, and to test them again 10-12 weeks after their return to Queensland.
- Beekeepers must ensure testing, destination and traceability records of all individual hives are maintained for 12 months.

Biosecurity Queensland case managers will be assigned to every returning beekeeper to ensure all the permit conditions are known and understood, and compliance activities will be undertaken to ensure the permit conditions are met. Penalties apply to beekeepers who do not meet their obligations under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*.

## Report the health of hives via Bee 123

Spring is a perfect time to check the health of your hives, even if you do not find any suspect mites.

All beekeepers are encouraged to [check their hives](#) and report online using the quick and easy to use [Bee123](#) form.

The data gathered from checking hives will help us to understand the number and health of beehives in Queensland.

## More information

- [Read more about varroa mite.](#)
- Visit the [Department of Agriculture and Fisheries engagement hub](#)—help protect our bees by reading the latest FAQs or ask us a question.

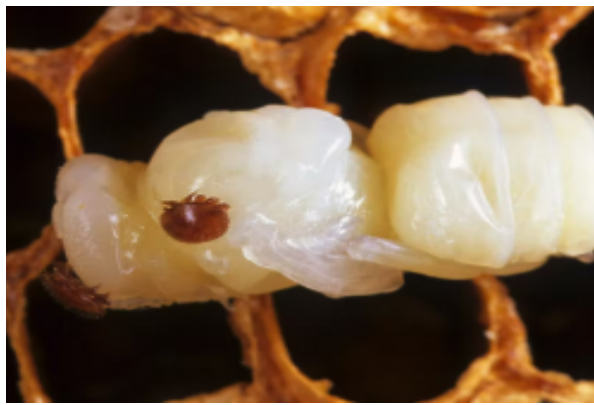


Image: varroa mite on a bee pupae



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