



Queensland Beekeepers' Association

Weekly Varroa Mite Update – 13 October 2023

The detection of *Varroa destructor* in Newcastle on the 22nd June 2022 has created much anxiety within the Australian beekeeping industry. In an effort to streamline our communications to our members the QBA will now offer weekly updates to our members and affiliate clubs giving insight into our current areas of focus.

Update 13 October 2023

Bee 123 data Spring Blitz Surveillance Program 1st September to current day:

Total beekeepers reporting results	173
Total Hives checked	2491
Total hives reported	14086
Total No. of Recreational Beekeeper Surveys:	85
Total No. of Commercial Beekeeper Surveys:	88
Mites found or suspected	0

Biosecurity Queensland and QBA Update 13 October 2023

QBA Weekly Update – 13/10/2023

- A revised response plan (including transition to management activities) is currently being developed. Until a revised plan is approved by the NMG, NSW will operate under an interim strategy. NSW strategy [Varroa mite emergency response \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/varroa-mite-emergency-response)
- Biosecurity Queensland has paused issuing Biosecurity Instrument Permits for the movement of bees and varroa mite carriers into Qld. This pause will remain in place whilst Biosecurity Queensland, in consultation with industry, establishes protocols of how Queensland will move forward in a transition to management.
- A communication engagement campaign started on 11 September. The 'Spring Blitz' campaign will be run on radio, social media, and digital display ads. It is more important than ever that Queensland Beekeepers continue looking at their hives, testing and reporting the results and reporting their results via the [Bee 123 form](#).
- Biosecurity Queensland staff has been out and about the last couple of weeks engaging with some of the local Beekeeper clubs:
 - Dean Stephen spoke to the Southern Beekeepers on Sunday 8 October and the Dalby Beekeeping club on Thursday 12 October.
 - Hamish Lamb will be speaking to the Kingaroy Beekeepers on Saturday 14 October.
 - Rob Stephens is pencilled in to talk at the Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers field day on Saturday 4 November.

- The VMPPP operations team have continued sticky mat testing on a select group of hives that have recently returned from almond pollination in Victoria. This week approximately 200 hives in Barakula State Forest were tested using miticide and sticky mats which will be analysed by Nata-accredited Government laboratories.
- The miticide strips and sticky mats are placed in the brood box and remain in position for 24-48 hours before they are removed and packaged for laboratory testing. We would like to thank the affected beekeepers for their support in the conduct of this testing.

Bee 123 QLD Surveillance Dashboard Map 13 October 2023

The maps below illustrate the current distribution of varroa mite surveillance activities reported to the Bee 123 portal. The QBA and DAF urge all beekeepers across Queensland to complete varroa mite surveillance activities immediately and report their results (including negative results) to the portal.

The blue dots on the map represent negative surveillance results from 113 varroa mite surveillance activities reported to the Bee 123 portal since the 1st of September 2023

Please see the page below to review the current distribution of varroa mite surveillance reports as collated from data collected from the Bee 123 portal.



Figure 1 - Bee 123 Surveillance Reports –13 October 2023

Video Resources:

The QBA now have a dedicated YouTube channels with multiple playlists offering a dynamic range of subject matter relevant to beekeeping in Queensland. We encourage all members to explore our online video library and recommend members regularly visit our YouTube channel to discover new content from time to time.

If you'd like to visit our YouTube channel, click on the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/@queenslandbeekeepersassoc>

QBA Membership:

The Queensland Beekeepers' Association warmly welcome new members to our organisation. To complete an application for membership please visit <https://members.qbabees.org.au/join-us/>

When completing your application, please nominate your preferred branch of the QBA.

Useful Information Links:

QBA Varroa mite portal - <https://members.qbabees.org.au/QBA-Varroa-Mite-Portal>

DAF Engagement Hub - <https://daf.engagementhub.com.au/varroa-mite>

NSW DPI - <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/emergencies/biosecurity/current-situation/varroa-mite-emergency-response>

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