



# Key Takeaways about Honeybees

- Introduced from Europe to support wax candle making
- Form much larger colonies than wasps or bumblebees
- Honeybees live in hives, while wasps and bumblebees often nest underground or out in the open.
- Navigate by the sun and return to hives at sunset (typically have a 1 km “sphere of influence”)
- Begin foraging at 50°F in search of food
- Hives can be commercially transported across the country
- Fall flowers are especially important for honeybee colonies
- Industrial farming depends on honeybees
  - California uses over 2 million hives annually for almond pollination.
  - 2 colonies per acre for blueberry production
- Colonies range from 30,000 to 100,000 bees
- Generally not aggressive—unlike wasps, they sting only when provoked or defending the hive
- Observation: They’ll eat sap from Spotted Lanternflies, producing darker, smoky-flavored honey

## Roles in the Hive:

- Queen: Lays eggs
- Drones: Fertilize queens of other colonies
- Workers: Clean out debris
- Nurse Bees: Feed larvae until pupation

