



About honeybees.....our "domestic" honeybees

(they are really European) are usually rather tame and won't attack, until they go into their defensive mode often due to a human stepping on one of their sisters or trying to steal their honey, or some similar event. I often play with them and let them crawl on me and have never been stung. They are cute and furry! Usually if you are calm and move slowly, they will not bother you. They really would rather not sting you, because if they do, they will die.

Africanized honeybees are another story. They often attack and have killed people and animals. Unfortunately, they look exactly like our "regular" honeybees, so the only way to tell them apart is how they act. Now Africanized honeybees have arrived in Florida (well, we knew they were on their way and would get here eventually) and most likely will spread throughout the state. It is hoped that they mate with our nice, domestic bees and have nice, tame bee-babies.

If you have a swarm of bees at your home, either under the eaves or getting into a wall or the attic, you should call for help. I have seen walls get filled up with honey and the owner did not think it was a very sweet thing to have to smoke out the bees and rebuild the wall.

News: 13 July 2005:

Man Attacked By Swarm Believed To Be 'Killer Bees'

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PALM BEACH COUNTY, Fla. -- A Boynton Beach man is still recovering after being stung dozens of times, and now scientists are trying to determine if he was attacked by Africanized killer bees

<http://www.local10.com/news/4718949/detail.html>