

# Colony Collapse Disorder - CCD

CCD is the name given to the most significant losses of honey bees seen in the US. It was first reported in November 2006 and has mainly affected migratory beekeepers. At least 22 of the US states have been affected. Many commercial beekeepers have reported losses of 50-90%.

## CCD CHARACTERISTICS

- Primarily commercial, migratory beekeepers affected
- Sudden adult bee depopulation
- Sometimes small cluster of bees left with a queen
- Brood, pollen and honey present
- Little evidence of robbing, or of wax moth or small hive beetle attack



## CONCERNS

- Due to their vital pollination function, the loss is raising concerns about the impact on agricultural production
- May need to import package bees from outside the USA eg Australia to fulfill pollination needs for the pollination of California almond crop

## WHAT IS BEING DONE?

- Formation of scientific working group to investigate cause
- More information on US situation at <http://www.ento.psu.edu/MAAREC>

## EUROPE

- Significant losses have been seen in parts of Europe but this can be attributed to other factors such as *Nosema ceranea* or Varroa
- Recent formation of 'CoLoss European Working Group' of which the NBU is a member

## UK

- Occasional cases of large scale colony collapse have been experienced by some beekeepers
- Most cases can be explained by disease, husbandry or inadequate varroa control
- It is not considered that CCD is currently present in the UK, but where sudden, unexplained losses are seen the NBU is taking samples and investigating



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[www.nationalbeeunit.com](http://www.nationalbeeunit.com)



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