

# Murray Valley Citrus Board



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## **Urgent**

### **Locust Spraying and Bees Information**

The Victorian Department of Primary Industries (DPI) would like to reiterate that beekeepers that contract honey bee pollination services to growers in locust-affected areas will need to move hives to avoid the risk of spraying.

DPI strongly recommends that hives be immediately moved from horticultural areas as spraying is well underway across the Mallee Locust Operational Zone.

Chemicals used to treat locusts are hazardous to bees, although the level of risk varies between different chemicals. Bees can be killed by coming into direct contact with chemicals or by traces of chemicals being brought back to the hive.

DPI is using Metarhizium on areas with proximity to horticultural sites which significantly reduces the impact on flora and fauna.

Bees should not be returned to treated areas until all spraying in the bees' foraging area is complete and after any chemical residue that may be harmful to bees has broken down. This could be at least 28 days for some chemicals.

There is potential for emergency bee agistment and storage on public land in the plague locust treatment area. The DSE Beekeeper contact officer can be contacted to discuss options for emergency agisting or storing bees on public land in the plague locust control zone.

For further information please contact:

- DPI Locust Hotline on 1300 13 559
- Customer Service Centre on 136 186
- DSE Beekeeper on (03) 5051 4351