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## Spring Means the Appearance of Stinging Insects

Another stinging group of insects that might cause alarm in areas are swarms of bees. Swarms of bees occur most commonly during the early spring when new queens decide to form a new nesting site. These bee swarms are less likely to be aggressive so we usually do not have to worry about stinging. However, these swarms tend to cause uproars in urban areas, if the nest settles in a backyard tree or on a porch. Also if the bees find a way to invade structures and take up residence in walls or attics, it could lead to a pretty expensive removal. If nests are not removed, the wax, honey and dead bees may produce odors that can attract other pests such as mice, ants, or cockroaches.

Some people prefer to leave their wild bee swarms alone. However if you wish to take action, the safest course is to hire a beekeeper to remove the swarm or hire a professional to eliminate it before they discover a way into structures. For more information about bees, please visit <http://honeybee.tamu.edu>.



Photo of European honey bee worker (left) and Africanized honey bee worker (right) are very similar in appearance . Photo by Texas AgriLife Extension, Texas A&M System.

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