

Beekeeping in New Zealand



We're a little country,
Clean, green and passionate
about Bees!



3,251 Registered Beekeepers

23,395 Apiaries

388,369 Beehives

March 2011



287 of our largest beekeepers
Manage 96% of the hives

Average yield 38kgs per hive



Annual Production 9,000-12,000 tonnes.





1/3-1/2 of all our honey
exported

**Pastoral and multi floral blends
form the bulk of the commercial
harvest.**



**Increasing demand for higher
quality and higher value mono
floral honey.**



**The most famous is our
Manuka with its unique
Non peroxide activity.**



New Zealanders are big
honey consumers,
1.4kg per person pa,
down slightly from 2 kg per person
pa 15 years ago

Premium honey
presents new
harvest
opportunities





**transporting hives by boat for
unique island harvest**



**Honey is held in high regard as a
delicious, nutritious, natural
health food**



Climate Zones... subtropical in the north



To snow in the south!



**And this one was last month in the
central North Island!**



**Being on island nation we are
never to far from the sea, so
plenty of wind**



**We have 40 species of
Native Bee.**

Most are solitary and stingless.

**Bees were introduced from
Europe to pollinate the new crops.**



The first European bees to be introduced were the northern BLACK BEE in 1839.

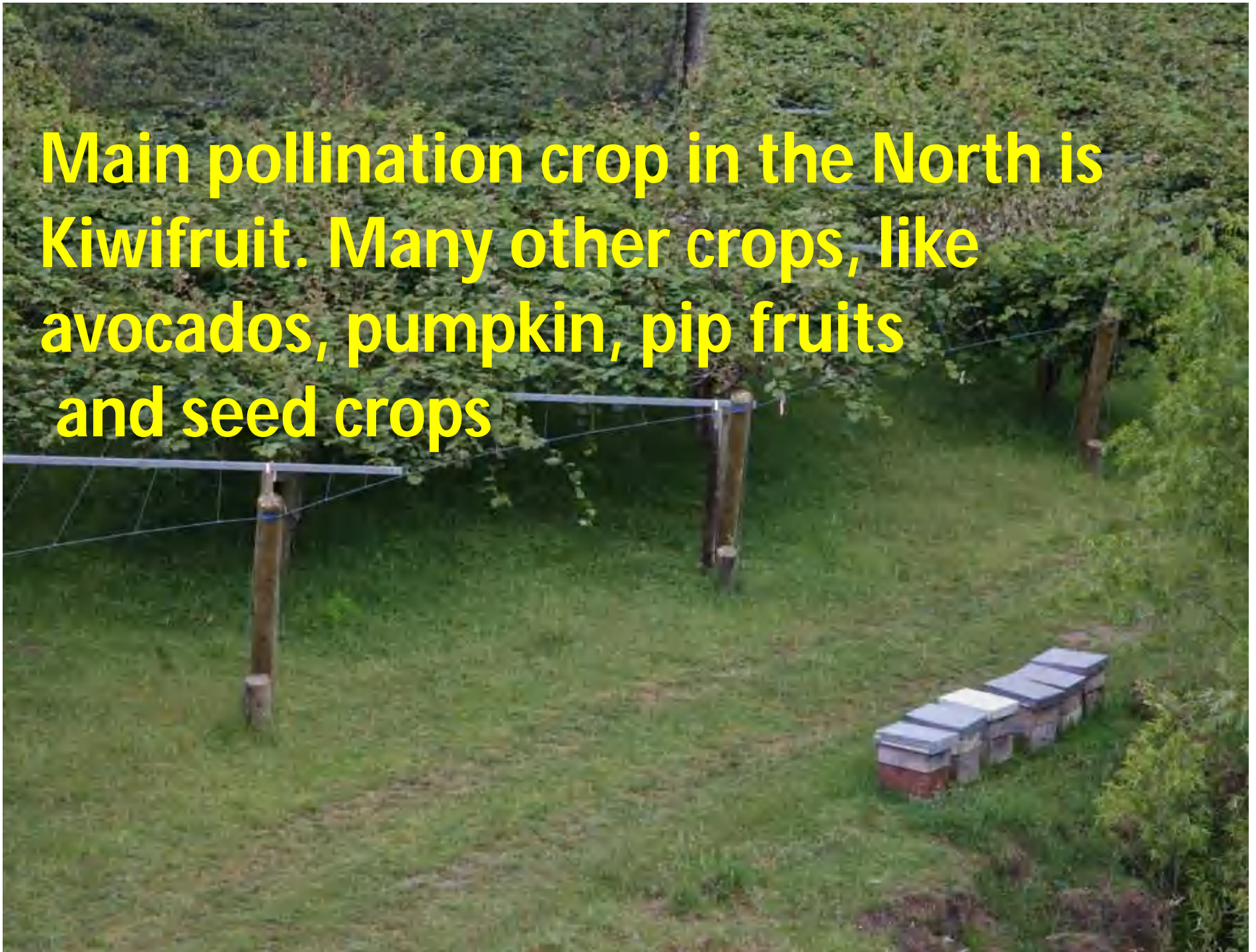
Predominant YELLOW ITALIAN Bee introduced 1880.

Some GREY CARNIOLAN introduced 5 years ago in an effort to breed bees with greater Varroa tolerance.

Honey production, Pollination and Package bees for the northern hemisphere are the main revenue earners.

A small exclusive organic bee venom industry is having a boost with the announcement that the British Duchess of Cambridge, Princess Kate, uses a New Zealand organic Bee venom face cream...Natural Botox.

**Main pollination crop in the North is
Kiwifruit. Many other crops, like
avocados, pumpkin, pip fruits
and seed crops**



**Nearly all commercial beekeepers
in the North Island and
½ in the South Island, provide
hives for pollination.**

**This involves some migration.
Longest distance usually around 4-
5 hours driving.**



Pollination a high income earner

A photograph of a cherry blossom orchard. Rows of cherry trees with white blossoms line a central path. In the background, a row of tall, thin, dark green trees stands against a clear blue sky. The ground is covered in green grass and fallen petals. A small white structure is visible in the lower left corner.

Cherry pollination South island



Central Otago



Top bar hives and skeps are illegal
in New Zealand.

To comply with our strict Pest
Management Strategy, all frames
must be able to be removed for
regular hive inspections.

**It is our goal to eradicate AFB
without the use of drugs.**



One main National Beekeepers Association and a network of regional sideline bee clubs

National Bee Products Standard Council

- developing
- recommending,
- and monitoring of Industry standards.

New thinking..new equipment





Quality extraction



Urban Beekeeping is rapidly increasing with the growing awareness on global Bee decline.



Auckland City has
over 500 club
members.

City hives thriving
producing 3-4
times
the national yield.



Town Hall Hives...excellent PR opportunities





Opportunities to work with the
public

FOOD SECURITY
needs

BEE SECURITY

**We do not have: EFB (European
foulbrood**

Small hive beetles,

Tracheal mites,

**IAPV (Israeli Acute Paralysis Virus)
or Africanised bees... YET!**

BIOSECURITY does not allow honey or bee product imports.

As an island nation, with an economy based on agriculture, we wish to mitigate the risk of exotic incursions that might threaten our bees.



No GMO's



Beekeepers constantly
looking to work smarter







New Zealand's economy strongly
focused on agriculture. Bees
contribute \$NZ 5.2 billion



Queen breeder in the far north

**VARROA has changed the face of
beekeeping in NZ.**

**We are now experiencing resistance
to pyrethroids, the use of organic
treatments is now increasing again.**

**VARROA IS CURRENTLY THE MAIN
CAUSE OF HIVE MORTALITY,
followed by agrichemical misuse.**

Hive lifter



There is increasing evidence of large numbers of unexplained bee losses in areas of intensive horticulture.

Bee keepers are attempting to form strategic alliances with industry partners to monitor and investigate these losses.

**Building strategic alliances with
industry partners to investigate
and research bee losses**



To increase the diversity of available nectar and pollen sources, planting guides for “Trees for Bees” and “Wildflower Seed, BEE RESCUE Remedy” are being promoted by our National Beekeepers Assn.

BEEES

NEED YOUR HELP BECAUSE...

- The bee cannot survive without the help of humans, and we cannot survive without the bee.
- More than 1/3 of what we eat and 3/4 of the diversity relies on bee pollination AND so do billions of \$\$\$ in export earnings.
- Bees all around the globe are being critically threatened by Varroa, Pesticides, Disease and Loss of Habitat.

Our Bees Need Protection Plant for pollinators NOW

All proceeds from the sale of these seeds go to the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand to **Help NZ Bees**.

www.nba.org.nz

www.wildforage.co.nz

WILD FLOWER SEED RESCUE REMEDY

**SUCCESSFUL
PUBLIC
RELATIONS**



An industry on the move...

**New Zealand is very proud of our
pure high value honey and
value added chains.**

**Small country,
with a big heart
which is still BUZZING!**



Special Thanks for the photography to:

Gilles Ratia from Apiservices,

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Barry Foster

and all my other beekeeper friends
who have provided me with images.



