

Bee Checks:

Protecting Honey Bees During Pesticide Applications



Planning on applying pesticides soon? California law requires applicators to notify beekeepers within a one-mile radius at least 48 hours before applying pesticides labeled as “toxic to bees” onto blossoming plants. This process is known as a “Bee Check”. Pest Control Advisors (PCAs) may also conduct voluntary Bee Checks when writing recommendations for the use of bee-toxic pesticides.

How to Perform a Bee Check

When considering applying a pesticide to blossoming plants, check the “Environmental Hazards” section of the label to determine if it is toxic to bees or has other restrictions.

If the pesticide is toxic to bees, you have two options to conduct a Bee Check:

Option 1: CalAgPermits BeeWhere System

- ◆ Visit beewhere.calagpermits.org
- ◆ Log in using your existing CalAgPermits credentials, or create a new account.
- ◆ Select “Grower/Applicator Bee Check” (PCAs select “PCA Bee Check”)
- ◆ A Bee Check report will be provided including contact information for beekeepers within one-mile of the application site who have requested to receive notifications.

Option 2: Contact the AWM Apiary Program

- ◆ Call us at (800) 200-2337 or e-mail Labs.AWM@sdcounty.ca.gov
- ◆ Provide us the planned application date and site (be as specific as possible)
- ◆ We will provide you contact information for beekeepers within one-mile of the application site who have requested to receive notifications.

Lastly, contact each of the beekeepers using their preferred contact method and provide the following:

- ◆ Application time, location, and method.
- ◆ Crop and acreage to be treated.
- ◆ Pesticide active ingredient and dosage.
- ◆ Your contact information.

Once you’ve completed the Bee Check, don’t forget these other important practices to protect honey bees when applying pesticides:

- ◆ Follow label requirements and best management practices.
- ◆ Consider applying at night or when weather is below 50° F and bees are less active.
- ◆ Turn off spray equipment near beehives and do not spray while bees are in flight and actively foraging.

Contact us for more information on...

Bee Checks/Honey Bees/Beekeeping

AWM Apiary Program
(800) 200-2337
Labs.AWM@sdcounty.ca.gov

Pesticide Use Requirements

AWM Pesticide Regulation Program
(858) 694-8980
PRP.AWM@sdcounty.ca.gov

Please Note: Apiary locations must be kept confidential in accordance with California law. A valid Site ID issued on an Operator ID Number or Restricted Materials Permit is required prior to performing a Bee Check through the BeeWhere system. Bee Check Reports are monitored and recorded on BeeWhere for auditing purposes.