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## **POLLINATION**

### **Guidelines for the Producer**

As Producer you have done all you can regarding all your other management practices, and will continue to do so. You will also pay a full price for your critically important pollination service which you expect to be delivered properly and at the laid-down standards. It will therefore be worth the while to attend appropriately to each of the following aspects to ensure a proper crop is set and the safety and functioning of the bees which have to help achieving this, are guaranteed.

1. Order your pollination service for the season well in advance.
2. Ensure your Pollination Service Provider is knowledgeable about pollination practice in general and the standards required.
3. Be knowledgeable about the issue yourself --- study the current guidelines (see elsewhere on the website).
4. Prepare your orchards and roads in advance for the placement and removal of the hives which is mostly done in the dark.
5. Choose the hive sites with discretion and prepare them properly and timeously.
6. Keep the hives out of the orchard, point the entrances across/away from possible spraying action (if necessary), keep them off the ground and wet grass (using cleaned tyres which cannot accumulate water), ensure it stands firm and sideways straight-up but slightly tilted forward to prevent water entering, do not place in the shade or low-lying areas, and prevent possible vandalism.
7. Discuss your spraying programme in detail with your Agrochemical Advisor with specific attention to the bee interface --- for the whole period sufficiently before introducing the bees through to removal of all bees (also from adjacent orchards and/or from the farm).
8. Make provision for additional pollination units when a shorter flowering period (maybe due to rest breaking) or bad weather conditions are expected.
9. Do not do mechanical or chemical weed control directly before or during the pollination period.
10. Do not introduce the bees earlier than 10-15% bloom and have them removed just before full bloom.
11. Inspect all hives as soon as possible after introduction to ascertain they have all been opened properly.
12. Visit the hives daily to pick up any abnormality timeously.
13. Monitor the bee activity regularly according to the norms of the ARC & WCBA --- see elsewhere on the website.
14. Discuss any irregularity with your Service Provider without delay.