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How acidic is honey?

According to the National Honey Board, the acidity of honey ranges from a pH of about 3.4 to about 6.1, with an average of 3.9. The acidity of any honey is directly related to the floral sources that created it.

Honey contains a number of different acids, including about 18 amino acids, many different organic acids, as well as aliphatic and aromatic acids. The aromatic acids greatly contribute to the flavor of honey.

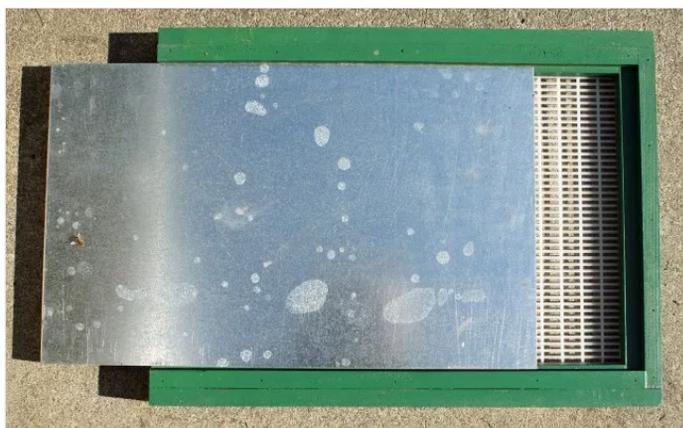
Acidity is measured on a scale of 1-14 called the **pH** scale. One is very acidic, 7 is neutral, and 14 is very basic. There are many confusing aspects to the pH scale, one of which is that it is logarithmic. Hence, something with a pH of 2 is 10 times more acidic than something with a pH of 3 and 100 times more acidic than something with a pH of 4.

Most human foods fall into a pH range of about 2 to 7, but this presents no challenge to the human stomach which averages a pH of about 1.5 to 2. The acidity of honey is very close to that of the more acidic fruits.

- Lemons: 2.2-2.4
- Oranges: 3.0-4.0
- Honey: 3.9 [ranging from 3.2-6.1]
- Cherries: 3.2-4.0
- Carrots: 4.9-5.3
- Corn: 6.0-6.5
- Distilled Water: 7.0 [neutral]
- Eggs: 7.6-8.0 [somewhat basic]

Because of its acidic properties, honey should always be processed and stored in non-reactive containers. The photo below shows a Cloake board with a galvanized aluminum divider that was damaged after honey dripped onto it.

Rusty



Galvanized sheet showing damage from honey.

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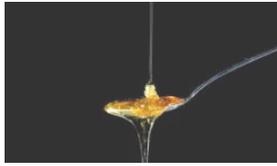


The Bees in Your Backyard

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Hydroxymethylfurfural (HMF) is a naturally-occurring organic acid with the formula C6H6O3. It is often formed during the dehydration of sugars,



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How the honey bee uses invertase

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skirtmuseum
January 15, 2011 at 6:14 pm

@HoneyBeeSuite have you read the Mary Roach book Stiff? The author discusses honey embalming. Uncomfortable & thrilling.



beeshed
January 16, 2011 at 1:32 am

RT @HoneyBeeSuite: [New Post] How acid is honey? <http://www.honeybeesuite.com/?p=2783> #beekeeping #bees



Lisa
January 6, 2013 at 7:55 pm

Interesting article. I have always been fascinated by bees and their sweet product...but for grammar's sake please change the title to "How ACIDIC is honey?"



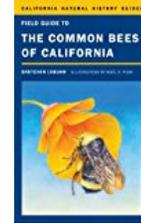
Rusty
January 7, 2013 at 7:00 am

Lisa,

Crazy how these things escape me. Thank you, and consider it done!



A Field Guide to the Common Bees of California



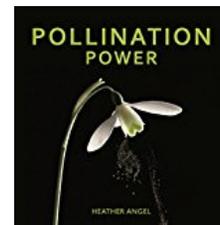
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The Bee-Friendly Garden



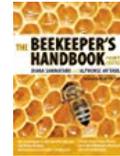
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The Valkyrie Long Hive



The **Valkyrie Long Hive** is perfect for those who don't like to lift heavy bee boxes.

Bee Wise

Go to the bee, thou poet: consider her ways and be wise.

—George Bernard Shaw

Bee-yond Bees

Bees are more than a hobby; they are a life study, in many respects a mirror of our own society.

—William Longgood

Why Honey Bee is Two Words

Regardless of dictionaries, we have in entomology a rule for insect common names that can be followed. It says: If the insect is what the name implies, write the two words separately; otherwise run them together. Thus we have such names as house fly, blow fly, and robber fly contrasted with dragonfly, caddicefly, and butterfly, because the latter are not flies, just as an aphision is not a lion and a silverfish is not a fish. The honey bee is an insect and is preeminently a bee; "honeybee" is equivalent to "Johnsmith."

—From **Anatomy of the Honey Bee** by Robert E. Snodgrass

State Insects

The non-native European Honey Bee is the state insect of:

- Arkansas
- Georgia
- Kansas
- Louisiana
- Maine
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Nebraska
- New Jersey
- North Carolina
- Oklahoma
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Utah
- Vermont
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin

Not one native bee is a state insect. The closest relative of a North American native bee to make the list is the **Tarantula Hawk Wasp**, the state insect of New Mexico.

iNaturalist



Orange Jelly Spot

Date: Dec 24 2018

Place: Thurston County, WA, USA



Leafcutter, Mortar, and Resin Bees

Date: Aug 18 2018

Place: Thurston County, WA 98512,

USA



Lasioglossum

Date: Aug 14 2018

Place: Thurston

County, WA, USA



European Wool

Carder Bee

Date: Aug 09 2018

Place: Thurston

County, WA, USA



Long-horned Bees

Date: Jul 30 2018

Place: Thurston

County, WA, USA

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Honey Bee Suite is dedicated to honey bees, beekeeping, wild bees, other pollinators, and pollination ecology. It is designed to be informative and fun, but also to remind readers that pollinators throughout the world are endangered. Although they may seem small and insignificant, pollinators are vital to anyone who eats.

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RUSTY BURLEW

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