



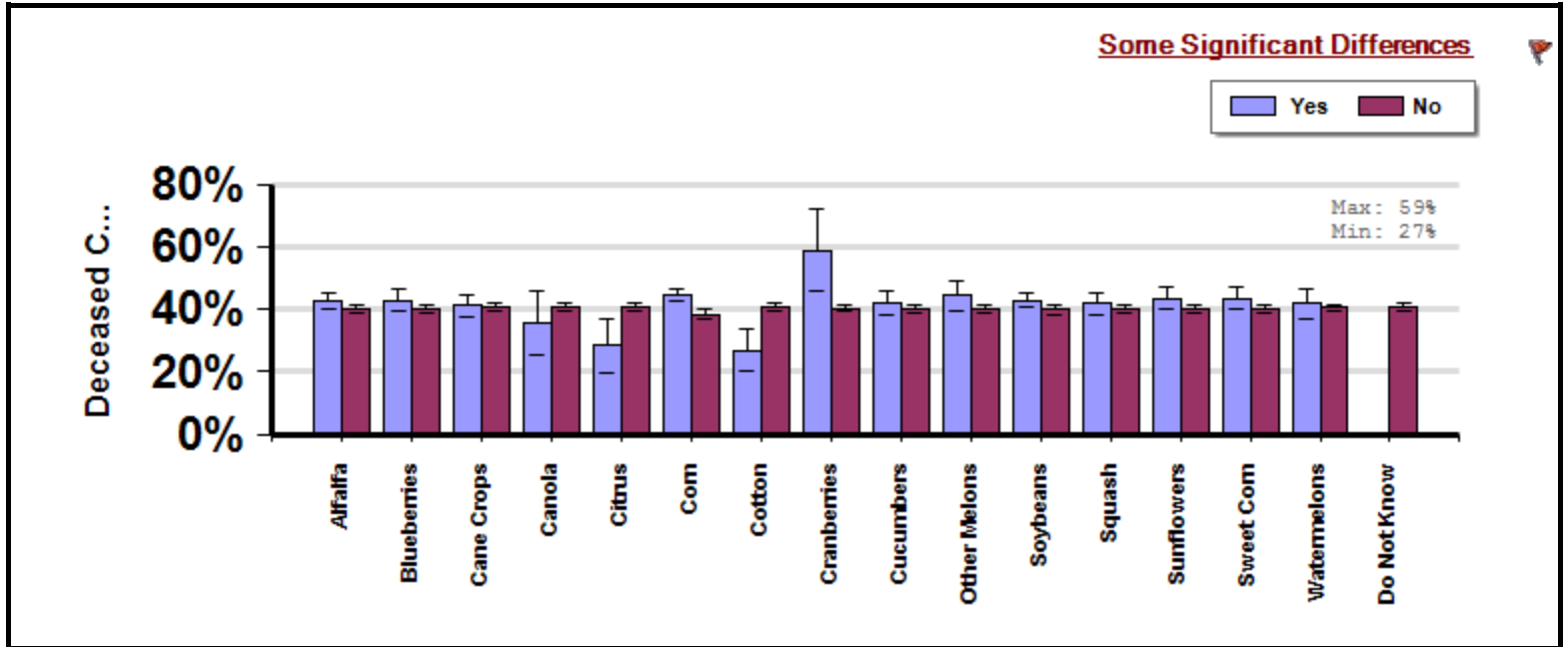
Crops Close to Colonies During Honey Flow

Management Survey 2015

Average winter colony mortality reported by beekeepers whose colonies were in proximity to various crops while they were producing honey between April and March.

Winter

Report ID: 86-2015



Interpretation

Beekeepers whose colonies were in close proximity to citrus and cotton crops lost significantly less overwintering colonies than beekeepers who did not report keeping their bees near these crops. Also, beekeepers who kept colonies near cranberries and corn crops lost significantly more overwintering colonies than those who did not. In particular, beekeepers whose colonies were in close proximity to cranberries lost 18.6 more overwintering colonies out of 100 managed colonies (lost 31.5% more colonies) than beekeepers who did not report keeping their bees near cranberries. There are no significant differences between all other groups. In other words, beekeepers who reported positioning their colonies in close proximity to alfalfa, blueberries, cane crops, canola, cucumbers, soybeans, sunflowers, sweet corn, watermelons or other melons did not lose more or less colonies than operations who did not report being in close proximity to those plants.

Survey Question

Which of the following crops were the majority of your colonies in proximity to when they were producing honey?

		Total Number of Respondents Providing Valid Responses	Total Number of Colonies Managed	Average Number of Colonies Managed		Average Colony Loss
				Mean	Standard Error	Mean(%) [Lower, Upper] CI

Alfalfa	Yes	584	175,589	300.7	114.2	42.7 [40.0,45.4]
	No	2,646	126,263	47.7	11.7	40.2 [38.9,41.5]
Blueberries	Yes	395	17,761	45.0	23.9	43.1 [39.8,46.4]
	No	2,835	284,091	100.2	25.8	40.3 [39.0,41.6]
Cane Crops	Yes	322	3,118	9.7	1.1	41.3 [37.6,45.0]
	No	2,908	298,734	102.7	25.4	40.6 [39.3,41.8]
Canola	Yes	30	40,711	1357.0	456.8	35.6 [25.2,45.9]
	No	3,200	261,141	81.6	22.6	40.7 [39.5,41.9]
Citrus	Yes	51	16,497	323.5	184.8	28.4 [19.9,37.0]
	No	3,179	285,355	89.8	23.0	40.8 [39.6,42.1]
Corn	Yes	1,142	80,387	70.4	22.7	44.5 [42.5,46.5]
	No	2,088	221,465	106.1	33.1	38.5 [37.1,40.0]
Cotton	Yes	66	12,323	186.7	104.7	27.0 [20.4,33.5]
	No	3,164	289,529	91.5	23.2	40.9 [39.7,42.1]
Cranberries	Yes	32	2,512	78.5	51.5	59.1 [46.0,72.1]
	No	3,198	299,340	93.6	23.1	40.5 [39.3,41.7]
Cucumbers	Yes	344	6,484	18.8	8.5	42.3 [38.6,45.9]
	No	2,886	295,368	102.3	25.5	40.5 [39.2,41.7]
Other Melons	Yes	193	5,911	30.6	15.4	44.6 [39.7,49.4]
	No	3,037	295,941	97.4	24.3	40.4 [39.2,41.6]
Soybeans	Yes	745	143,593	192.7	90.4	43.0 [40.6,45.4]
	No	2,485	158,259	63.7	12.1	40.0 [38.6,41.3]
Squash	Yes	402	3,915	9.7	0.9	42.0 [38.6,45.4]
	No	2,828	297,937	105.4	26.1	40.5 [39.2,41.7]
Sunflowers	Yes	391	45,977	117.6	45.7	43.6 [40.1,47.1]
	No	2,839	255,875	90.1	25.2	40.2 [39.0,41.5]
Sweet Corn	Yes	336	9,091	27.1	14.4	43.5 [39.9,47.2]
	No	2,894	292,761	101.2	25.4	40.3 [39.1,41.6]

Watermelons	Yes	183	10,402	56.8	28.3	41.9 [37.0,46.8]
	No	3,047	291,450	95.7	24.1	40.6 [39.3,41.8]
Do Not Know	No	3,230	301,852	93.5	22.8	40.6 [39.5,41.8]

Comments About This Data

Relevant Links, References, and Citations

Funded By:



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food
and Agriculture

This information is for educational purposes only. References to commercial products or trade names do not imply endorsement by the Bee Informed Partnership or its members. The results presented here are the summary of the population who responded. The sample may not be representative of the beekeeping population at large. These results simply highlight differences in the sample population. The results cannot be considered conclusive, causative, protective, or attest to product efficacy or lack of efficacy.