

2026 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #13a

I watched TV news this morning -- it is sizzling, roasting, and hissing hot outside. And this is just the start of high temperatures this week. I realize that the year is half over and I am thinking about the honey harvest and hoping my bees can survive this heat as well. I am also planning for next year. Hopefully, you will have some time this month to think about cooler weather. I just received the annual colony loss survey covering April 2025 to April 2026. The loss numbers have fallen a little bit from the previous two-year period when losses were in the 55% range. But losses were still high about 40% but it only covered those that reported numbers (15% of beekeepers in the U.S.).

Mite populations are growing while new brood populations are starting to decline. This is a problem! I mention brood breaks in this issue. You might google the topic and discover that it is beginning to be accepted by more and more beekeepers as a practical mite treatment.