

## HONEY BEES IN JORDAN

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### ABSTRACT

In Jordan there are about 25.000 beehives of the Langstroth type, and few hundreds of the traditional hollow clay cylinders.

The local breed is *Apis mellifera syriaca*. However *A.m. ligustica* is widely spread in Jordan. It is imported in the form of queens or package bees.

There are two main sources of honey in Jordan: 1-Citrus Orchards in the Jordan valley. 2- wild flowers and fruit trees in the highlands.

The following arthropodal and animal pests are recorded in Jordan: Varroa mite (*Varroa jacobsoni*), oriental wasp (*Vespa Orientalis*), greater wax moth (*Galleria mellonella*), and the bee eater (*Merops sp.*).

The following adult and brood diseases are recorded: American foul brood, European foul brood, chalk brood and Nosema).

A survey for tracheal mite (*Avarapis woodi*) is going on at the faculty of agriculture, University of Jordan.

### INTRODUCTION

the Hashemite kingdom of Jordan is a predominantly arid region of rocky deserts, mountains, and rolling plains, which comprise about 85% of the total area of 90.000 km<sup>2</sup>. The rest is agricultural land and forests. Since Jordan is a mediterranean country, it has a relatively mild rainy season from November to March.

the Jordan Rift Valley is a topographical feature in the country. It forms the Jordan River Valley (JV) and the Dead Sea which is about 400 meters below the mediterranean sea level.

In the JV several fruit species especially citrus and vegetables are grown during the winter season. It is one of the best beekeeping areas during the months of november to may.

The estimated number of hives is 25.000 of the modern Langstroth type, and few hundreds of traditional hollow clay cylinders.

The residues are very stable in beeswax. The melting of old combs and the production of new comb foundation has almost no effect on residue level.

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### THE JORDAN VALLEY

The Jordan Valley is a large, fertile plain extending from the Taurus mountains in the north to the Arabian Desert in the south. It is one of the most important agricultural areas in Jordan. The valley is bounded by the Taurus mountains to the north and the Arabian Desert to the south. The climate is semi-arid, with hot summers and mild winters. The soil is rich and fertile, and the water supply is abundant. The main crops grown in the valley are wheat, barley, and cotton. There are also many orchards and gardens. The valley is a major center of population in Jordan, and it is one of the most developed areas in the country.

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