



**Australian
Honey Bee**
INDUSTRY COUNCIL



All about Australian honey

Australia boasts more floral sources for honey bees to forage on than any other country in the world, making our honey the most unique with wide-ranging tastes and colours.



20,000 tonnes

**Commercial honey
production***
(levied hives only)



7,000 tonnes

**Recreational
honey production***



4,000 tonnes

Honey exports*

*Annual average between 2015-2019. Source: AgriFutures



Australian honey is highly sought after in global markets for its unique tastes and strong reputation for being produced cleanly and sustainably.

Flavours and colours of Australian honey

All around Australia honey bees visit more than 700 native flowering plants to collect nectar and pollen to produce honey. The flowers the honey bees visit give honey its flavour and colour.

Honey bees have an excellent sense of smell to distinguish between the different perfumes of the flowers and also have a 'perfume dispenser' to tell other bees the types of flowers that have been chosen. The bee can also distinguish colours in the blue and green end of the spectrum – and has a time sense, too.

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Some of the best loved Australian honey flavours come from:

- Blue gum – light amber, choice forest honey from the south.
- Karri – amber honey from the forests of Western Australia.
- Leatherwood – unique honey from Tasmania's west coast, quick to candy and extra light in colour.
- Lucerne – mild-tasting honey.
- Yellow box – pale and sweet honey from New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland.
- Stringy bark – strong flavoured, medium amber honey from the Great Dividing Range.
- Tea Tree – very strong flavoured honey used mainly in manufacturing, from the north and south.
- White clover – extra white honey that candies smoothly.

How many honey types do you know?

Next time you are at your grocery store, supermarket or health food shop look along the shelves to see the wide range of honey available to purchase. Generally, the larger the store, the more types there will be to choose from including blends of golden liquid honey ranging from pale yellow to deep rich amber, jellied, creamed or candied honey. You may even be able to buy honey in the comb — a favourite 'sweet' for many as it has a good chewy quality. It's tasty and it's fun, and you can eat the wax, too.

Honey can be used with many foods and in drinks as well. It not only tastes great but has many health benefits too.



Did you know?

If the honey bee visits a mixed patch of flowers, a special perfume left by the scout bee tells the workers to take the nectar from only one source so that honey in the hive is but one honey type.

Buy 100% Australian honey

When you choose to purchase honey, make sure you check the label carefully to ensure the contents are 100% Australian honey. You'll be supporting Australian beekeepers and the many horticultural and agricultural industries that rely on honey bees for pollination services.

Sign up to the monthly AHBIC newsletter and receive the latest industry news to your inbox.

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