

INDUSTRY SUMMARY · 2026

Beekeeping in British Columbia

2025 INDUSTRY FIGURES

5,356
beekeepers, 32.8% of Canada

88,068
colonies, 10.3% of Canada

1,809 t
honey produced, 4.7% of Canada

$23.8M
honey production value, 9.8% of Canada

Berry crops need bees

Commercial beekeepers bring colonies into Fraser Valley berry fields during bloom.

BC CULTIVATED AREA, 2025

Blueberry
about 24,700 acres

Insect pollination roughly doubles highbush blueberry yield; honey bees make most of the visits.

Raspberry
about 1,900 acres

In a UK trial, keeping all insects off the flowers cut marketable fruit set by 68%.

All insects, not honey bees alone; one farm.

Cranberry
about 6,600 acres

Without any insect pollinators, cranberry loses about 58% of its potential yield.

All insects; one study.

Okanagan tree fruit needs bees

Apple and cherry orchards bring in colonies at bloom. Without insect pollinators, apple loses about 73% of its potential yield.

12,700
acres of tree fruit

80%
in the Okanagan

6,300
acres of apples

5,100
acres of cherries

BC main growing regions, 2021.

BC honey varieties

Fireweed
Pale, mild honey from burns and logged slopes in the North and Interior.

Blueberry and raspberry
Made in the Fraser Valley while the bees pollinate the crop.

Blackberry
Summer honey from wild blackberry on the coast and in the Fraser Valley.

Clover and canola
The Peace, in the northeast corner of the province, is rich in clover and canola, which produce large honey crops.

Honey production averages about 21 kg per colony in BC, compared with 45 kg nationally.

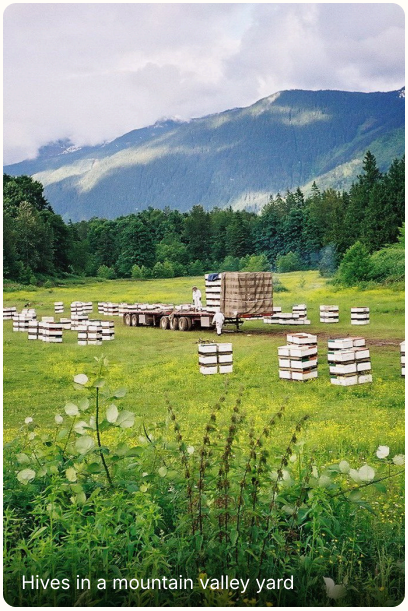
Wintering bees from other provinces

Prairie beekeepers, mostly from Alberta, truck colonies to the Fraser Valley and the Okanagan for the winter. The milder winter lets colonies build early, and many work BC's spring blueberry bloom before going home. Nobody publishes a count of these colonies.

Hive losses, winter 2025-26

British Columbia **23%**

Canada **34%**


Hives in a mountain valley yard


Fireweed and daisies


Wrapped for winter


Uncapping and extracting line


Honey bee on apple blossom

Prepared by the Canadian Beekeepers Federation · canadianbeekeepers.ca