

John Boyle  
Commissioner

dnr.alaska.gov



Department of  
Natural Resources

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: September 26, 2025

## Honey Bee Pest “Small Hive Beetle” Found in Alaska

**(Palmer, AK)** – Small hive beetle (SHB *Aethina tumida*, family: Nitidulidae), an economically significant pest of honey bees (*Apis mellifera*), has been detected in Alaska. This first known instance of small hive beetle (SHB) in Alaska was located at an apiary in the Copper River area, which had acquired bee packages from Mississippi. This pest was discovered by Alaska Division of Agriculture staff during an inspection in August and officially confirmed as part of the USDA National Honey Bee Disease Survey. Bee packages imported to or overwintered in the Copper River region should be considered potential sources of SHB and monitored carefully.

SHB was originally identified in the United States approximately 30 years ago and has since spread across most of the contiguous US. SHB negatively impacts honey bee colonies by consuming brood and fouling honey stores, which can result in financial losses for the beekeeper through colony loss and reduced honey production.

Any imported packages of bees, but especially those imported without a health certificate, can be a potential source of SHB. Preventing pests and diseases begins before the bees arrive in Alaska; beekeepers should only receive packaged bees from reputable suppliers. Per Alaska Statute, any person importing bees into Alaska is required to obtain a health certificate signed by a qualified apiary inspector.

Alaska state regulations also require anyone with honey bees to register their colonies within 72 hours of acquisition and annually thereafter. Additionally, a person moving or transporting bees from one geographic area to another within the state must notify the division before doing so. The Honey Bee Registration program is here to protect the bee keeper. The Division of Agriculture can respond to detections such as this, notify those in the honey bee industry in Alaska through response, monitoring, and possible eradication efforts.

For more information on Small Hive Beetle, an [Alaska Division of Agriculture Pest Alert](#) has been developed to inform Alaskan beekeepers how to identify, control, and report it, with the goal of eradicating the pest before it can become established in the state.

*The Department of Natural Resources' mission is to develop, conserve, and maximize the use of Alaska's natural resources consistent with the public interest.*

**Media Contact:** Lorraine Henry, 907-269-8427, [lorraine.henry@alaska.gov](mailto:lorraine.henry@alaska.gov)

###

**STAY CONNECTED:**

DNR Newsroom: [http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/dnr\\_newsroom.htm](http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/dnr_newsroom.htm)

DNR on Social Media: [http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/social\\_media.htm](http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/social_media.htm)

DNR Public Information Center: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/pic/>