

Urban 'treatment-free' beekeeping leads to explosion in killer Varroa mites

[Editor's note: Toni Burnham runs one of 10 hives at the National Arboretum in Washington, DC.]

In this season of vitriol we should all perhaps stand down, but there is something that must be said: if you are not raising or using locally-bred queens, or introducing hygienic lines, and you think you are doing survivor stock, you are an idiot. And I am so mad at you that my hands are shaking. My urban treatment-free neighbors, you are my precious one, too. In fact, I contend that your (lack of) effort is an insurmountable one, to the development of sustainable, resistant bees in your area.



Our urban clustered apiaries, containing bomb-

bees in your area.

Our urban clustered apiaries, containing bomb-

siro *Varroa* factories every few blocks now, means that beekeepers that are really breeding for survival face an impossible challenge while you pump pests out into the world around you.

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If you are an urban beekeeper, or are thinking of becoming one, I beg you to help me make a healthier new beginning next season. Please test, treat, know, and care for your bees. Or just leave them to someone who will.

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion, and analysis. Read full, original post: [Varroa bombs are real](#)

For more background on the Genetic Literacy Project, read [GLP on Wikipedia](#)