

New bee may increase U.S. fruit production

United Press International
American orchardists and home fruit growers may soon have a new helper to increase their fruit yields — the horn-faced bee from Japan.

Unlike the destructive Japanese beetle that hit American shores in 1912 and has been chewing its way south and west ever since, the Japanese horn-faced bee is a good bug.

It can pollinate 105 flowers to the honey bee's four in the same time span, thus increasing fruit yields. It has a mild, mosquito-like sting, it concentrates on fruit tree blossoms and it requires little year-round management.

These desirable attributes of the Japanese bee were reported in a recent issue of a news magazine published by Gardens For All, a non-profit organization that searches for and develops

productive gardening methods. The Japanese horn-faced bee was first imported in 1978 and already is helping to increase fruit yields in U.S. orchards by efficiently pollinating peach, cherry, plum and apple flowers.

They are not yet available for purchase in this country, says Gardens For All. Researchers, however, are working to increase their colonies so that in a few years they will be generally available.

Reporting on a side-by-side comparison of honey bees and the horn-faced bees conducted in an orchard near Hirosaki, Japan, Gardens For All said that in the same time period that honey bees pollinated four flowers, the horn-faced bees pollinated 105 flowers.

The Japanese bees prefer fruit tree flowers and are not

attracted to flowering weeds. They have a mild sting and are safer to handle than honey bees. Adult bees are alive only for a few weeks in the spring when fruit trees are blooming and require very little year-round management by farmers.

The horn-faced bee produces no honey. They live in strawlike stems from a common reed called Phragmites, or in cardboard tubes. When they are used as pollinators, pesticide spraying must be suspended. After their reproductive cycle is completed in the spring, the brood overwinters as larvae, protected inside the straws or reeds.

Gardens For All reported that horn-faced bee colonies have been established in Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina and the District of Columbia.



photo by Laura Hatch

Take my advice ...

Rick Airey, a senior industrial engineering major from Houston, gives some friendly advice for course choices to Lee Neathery, a sophomore

accounting major from Arlington. The two were outside Hart Hall discussing the class possibilities for pre-registration week which begins April 19.

IT'S COMING HOWDY WEEK

April 12-16

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Hall of Fame

Paper company buys bag-maker

United Press International
WAYNE, N.J. — The Union Camp Corp. is expanding its paper processing operations with the purchase of the Harley Corp., a Spartanburg, S.C.-based bag maker, for more than \$20 million.

William B. House, vice president and general manager of Union Camp's paper bag division, Tuesday said the Harley plants will be a geographic complement to Union Camp facilities.

Union Camp's existing multi-wall bag plants are at Savannah and Tifton, Ga., St. Louis, Mo., and New Hope, Pa. The company already has a corrugated container manufacturing plant in Spartanburg.

Last December, the Wayne, N.J., firm and Harley reached an agreement in principle for this week's purchase, which includes Harley's headquarters building near Spartanburg.

Harley has two multi-wall bag plants — factories for making heavy-duty paper bags — in Spartanburg, one for commercial bags and the other for smaller, consumer product bags.

The firm also has commercial bag plants in Seymour, Ind., and Denton, Texas.

The Harley Corp., with 500 workers, will operate as the Harley Bag Division of Union Camp Corp. It will become part of the company's Industrial Products Group, Union Camp's Tom Hunter said.

Robert Harley, former chairman of the board of Harley Corp., becomes general manager of the division, with headquarters in Spartanburg.

The Spartanburg operation produces multi-wall packaging for a wide range of industrial and agricultural products, including feed, fertilizer, chemicals and cement. Principle packaging uses for the consumer bags include pet food, charcoal and flour and other food products.

Throughout the Southeast, Union Camp owns or leases about 1.7 million acres of woodland. The company, in the top half of the Fortune 500 listing of the country's largest corporations, had 1981 sales of \$1.6 billion, Hunter said.

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