



Bee at work on a lavender flower

## Attack of the Vampire Mite?

Varroa Destructor external parasitic mites attack honey bees and can replicate in a honey bee colony and suck the “blood” or hemolymph of adult honey bees and leave open wounds which are prone to infection. Adult bees are almost completely defenseless against these parasites. This reddish brown teeny pest is only 1 – 1.8 millimeters long, and 1.5 – 2 millimeters wide; but the eight legged mini-beast can wreak havoc in a hive, since they reproduce on a 10 day cycle.

## Why are bees disappearing?

“Beginning in 2006, beekeepers in the United States began to report unexplained losses of hives — 30 percent and upward — leading to a phenomenon called colony collapse disorder (CCD). The cause of CCD remains under debate, but scientific consensus is beginning to emerge suggesting that there is no one cause but rather a combination of factors including lack of foraging plants, infections, breeding, and pesticides—with none catastrophic on their own, but having a synergistic effect when occurring in combination,” writes Wikipedia with sources noted as New Scientist, Environmental Microbiology and BBC News.

One possible component of CCD is clothianidin, developed by Takeda Chemical Industries and by Bayer AG. This particular insecticide is chemically similar to nicotine, which has been used as a pesticide since the late 1700s. The Environmental Protection Agency describes clothianidin’s major risk to non-target insects – honeybees. Studies suggest the potential for long term toxic risk to honeybees and other beneficial insects according to the Congressional Research Service Report for Congress on Honey Bee Colony Collapse Disorder.

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority notes that clothianidin ranks “among the most highly acutely toxic insecticides to bees” through contact and oral exposure.



It's the best time to sell in years in Lamorinda!

Go to [www.Lamorinda.net](http://www.Lamorinda.net), or call 925-550-2353

*J. Rockcliff*

REALTORS

Ranked #1 East Bay  
Real Estate Company

For every home buyer or seller  
Troy helps in Lamorinda, a \$300  
donation is made to support our  
excellent local schools.



**Troy Feddersen**  
Broker Associate  
DRE# 1835783

*Troy Feddersen and J. Rockcliff, Realtors*  
*Two names you can trust for real estate in Lamorinda*

**ADVANCE  
TREE SERVICE**  
& Landscaping

Family owned in Moraga since 1987



Your friendly neighborhood  
ISA arborists Darren and Lew Edwards

## 3 THINGS YOUR ARBORIST WANTS YOU TO KNOW

- 1-If you see mushrooms or fungi growing on your tree or if a big limb breaks off during a storm have Advance Tree Service out for a tree inspection before it's too late. Those can be signs of bigger problems.
- 2-Be wary of people who knock on your door or leave cards on your driveway, that could mean they are NOT Licensed California State Contractors and have NO liability insurance. Always get proof from the insurance co. because anyone can make a fake document on a computer.
- 3-Having proper technique is essential. Each cut has the potential to change the growth of the tree. Poor pruning can cause damage that last the life of the tree. So make sure you have an ISA Certified Arborist take good care of your tree needs.

So don't wait until it's too late, have a complete inspection by your local ISA Certified Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping.

Advance Tree Service  
Your Authority on Trees and Landscape.



**925-376-6528**

**advancetree@sbcglobal.net www.advancetree.com**

Follow us on Twitter ([advancetree](https://twitter.com/advancetree)) and like us on Face Book  
([ADVANCETREESERVICEANDLANDSCAPINGINC.](http://ADVANCETREESERVICEANDLANDSCAPINGINC.))