

BEEES



COLONY SPECIES 2023: Italian

From the Apennine Peninsula in Italy and brought to the Americas in the mid-1850s, Italian bees are the most popular variety in North America. Although they struggle in colder climates, they typically make a good amount of honey and are relatively easy to work with. They are unable to quickly decrease their population in the winter, so they need that extra honey to feed the hive. They do have a greater tendency to swarm, meaning they are more likely to leave their hive to start a new one somewhere else, which can contribute to the spread of diseases. Though they are good at keeping their hive clean, they are less resistant to mites than other varieties.

