





Pollination Symposium 2009
Keith Institute.






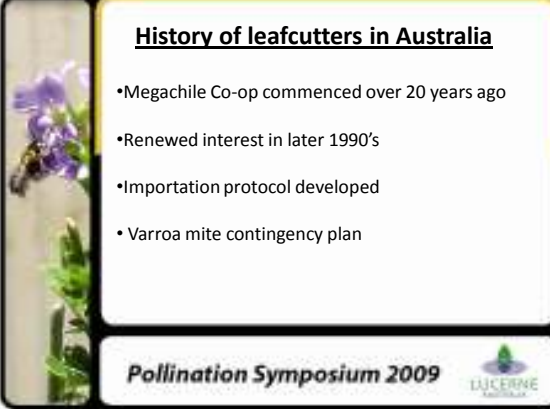



Leafcutter Bees in Australia




Scott Manser
Australian Leafcutter Association (ALCA)

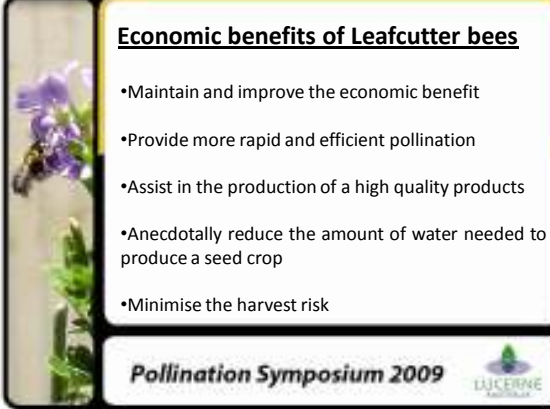
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History of leafcutters in Australia


- Megachile Co-op commenced over 20 years ago
- Renewed interest in later 1990's
- Importation protocol developed
- Varroa mite contingency plan

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Economic benefits of Leafcutter bees

- Maintain and improve the economic benefit
- Provide more rapid and efficient pollination
- Assist in the production of a high quality products
- Anecdotally reduce the amount of water needed to produce a seed crop
- Minimise the harvest risk

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Are LCB successful in Australia?

- How do you define success?
 - Population and seed yield increase
 - Reality
- Funding needed for research and development.

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Leafcutter bee site at Wattle Range 2008.

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Aims of the Commercial Viability Assessment

- Are Leafcutter bees commercially viable
- Develop a business plan
- Based on forecast costs and bee recovery rate several business models were projected

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Method of the Commercial Viability Assessment

- What factors went into the model
 - Costs of managing bees
- Model based on stocking rate and bee recovery rate

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Commercial Viability Assessment

- Significant levels of investment are needed
- Annual positive population development
- Importation and quarantine factors
- Ongoing supply
- Protocol management
- Marketing and awareness campaign

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Action plan for viability

- Capital raising
- Cost of quarantine and quarantine barriers
- Qualified and/or experienced personnel
- Facilities
- Research and Development

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The future

- ALCA in recess
- If and when Varroa mite arrives
- Significant existing knowledge base
- Necessity

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