

## **Movement and Storage of Horn-Face Bees**

Erin Taylor, Horticulture Technician

Nikki Rothwell, District IPM Educator

Nesting containers should be removed from orchards before spraying insecticides. If insecticides are not a factor, nesting containers may be left in place until a significant, visible decline in activity is observed. Once the containers are removed from the orchard, they should be placed in a storage area where they will remain for the duration of the season. DO NOT place them in a cooler as larvae need to complete their development at seasonal temperatures throughout the summer and fall months. Take caution when moving the containers because the larvae are attached to their provisions at this time and if they become disconnected they usually die. We recommend that you store the container with the nest-entrances facing up to increase the chance of a detached larvae reattaching to its provisions.

Relocating containers and nesting shelters results in all or most of the females interrupting their nesting activity and leaving the new site. Relocating the nest before egg-laying is completed is not recommended, but if moving the nest is necessary, the following steps will reduce bee losses: 1) 85% re-establishment can be obtained by marking shelters with large visual landmarks (e.g. plywood sheets), 2) containers and shelters should be moved at night when temperatures are cool and females are inside their nesting cavities, and 3) cavity entrances should be covered with a non-adhesive material to prevent females from leaving during transport. Be sure to use the same nesting shelter at the new site and place the containers within the shelter in the same position as before or females become disoriented and leave. Take care when moving the containers even early in the season (now) as eggs and young larvae are already present.