

Brood Diseases - the Big Two

EFB – European Foul brood

Caused by bacteria that infect larvae. The bacteria live and multiply in the larva's gut, eating the larva's food. The bee larvae eventually die of starvation.

Look for uneven brood patterns and twisted larvae that look as though they have been melted down! And use your nose – they smell awful!

If you have these signs – contact your local bee inspector now!



European Foul Brood

Photo: Bee Informed Partnership



American Foul Brood

Photo: Tanarus

AFB – American Foul brood

Caused by a different bacteria, this also affects larvae. Look for 'Pepper pot' brood patterns, sunken, dark and greasy cappings. Dip a matchstick into the remains of a larva and pull it out. Does it come out like a string? You might also see brown scales (the remains of dead larvae) that are hard to take out of the cells.

Seen some of these? Then you have an AFB infection!