ground moisture for later honey flows. However, many of the beekeepers in the eastern half of the country said they had sufficient moisture for early honey flows. Wholesale honey trading is slow at the present time since beekeepers have sold most of their 1999 crops. More and more beekeepers are expressing a concern about genetically modified crops grown in their locations and what effect this might have on their honey sales to Europe.

AUSTRALIA

Our only two reports this month came from Victoria and Queensland. In Victoria, beekeepers were well into their summer and major honey flows were in progress. Beekeepers are generally optimistic about honey crops this season. Red gum is finished and iron bark and peppermint gums are just beginning. Unfortunately, wholesale honey prices are headed downward.

Information from Queensland indicates that a below average honey crop was gathered in the Southeast this past season. A large crop of Patterson's Curse honey was gathered in NSW and this caused the price of light honey to drop by 5 cents per kg some weeks ago, with the darker grades falling by one and two cents. Western Queensland, and for that matter much of Queensland, is having much rain, with floods in the winter honey-producing areas. The most rain for the past ten years has been recorded. Sources expect most of the colonies will be transported west to take care of the winter flow from the Yapanuth and ground flora that should be available after the floods, as soon as the country dries out. Minimum prospects for the Autumn honey are available in the SE part of the state.

CHINA

In northern China bees are still in their winter season, but in the southern part of the country colonies are beginning to gather early nectar and pollen. Moisture conditions are described as fair to good and bees are wintering well for the most part. Both domestic and foreign demand for Chinese honey remain strong, especially in view of the shorter-than-normal honey crops last season.