

2025 BEES ON SALE NOW

TERMS... When you place an order for bees with Beekind, you automatically agree to the following:

- Orders made before January 1 will be held in line as they come in and will be processed after January 2, 2025.
- Orders must be made, and paid for in advance, when ordering bees and before pick up dates.
- Beekind Honey does not ship bees, however, online shipping form must be completed in order to process your online order.
- Your pick up weekend must be selected at time of purchase. You are responsible for knowing the weekend you have purchased bees for. Package bees that are not picked up on weekend dates selected will be forfeited. Due to the amount of bees we sell, we will not be calling you.
- **MAKE SURE OF YOUR PICK UP WEEKEND AND MARK IT ON YOUR CALENDARS.**
ABSOLUTELY NO REFUNDS, CANCELLATIONS OR DATE CHANGES AFTER MARCH 15, 2025.

ANY REFUNDS OR ANY CHANGES ON BEE ORDERS PRIOR TO MARCH 15, WILL BE CHARGED A \$35.00 CANCELLATION OR DATE CHANGE FEE ON EACH PACKAGE.

- You can pick up your package(s) on either Saturday or Sunday of your selected weekend.
- Bees must be picked up at the Beekind store in Sebastopol, CA. Beekind Honey does not ship bees, however, the online order form's shipping options must be completed in order to process online ordering. Orders are not complete until we have emailed a receipt from Beekind with an authorization number when your card is charged after we process your online order in our store.
- Beekind reserves the right to post-pone pick-up dates if weather is a factor in collecting bees when preparing packages for customer pick-up.
- **CUSTOMER ASSUMES ALL RISKS CONCERNING BEES ONCE THEY ARE PICKED UP.**
BEES ARE LIVE STOCK AND ARE SUBJECT TO VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL STRESSES AND OCCASIONALLY BEES DO DIE IN TRANSPORT OR ABSCOND AFTER INSTALLATION.

Terms Rev. 12-27-2024, Beekind Honey, all right reserved.

\$185 includes a non-returnable cage
Select only one weekend and pick up either Sat. or Sun.
SAT. or SUN. April 19-20 OR SAT. or SUN. April 26-27

BEEKIND'S OWN LOCAL STOCK

Three Pound Package of worker bees with one laying Local Queen.
Locally adapted stock that have been untreated for several years living in California Coastal climate.

ITALIANS

Three Pound Package of worker bees with one laying Italian Queen. Italians are ideal for a temperate Mediterranean climate and are known for their large numbers and ability to capitalize on early nectar flows.

CARNIOLANS

Three Pound Package of worker bees with one laying Carniolan Queen. Carniolans are ideal in a cooler or higher altitude climate and are known for their over wintering ability in small clusters.

All Queens are open mated in Capay valley (40 miles east of Santa Rosa) with commercial drones.

BEEKIND HONEY AND SUPPLY PACKAGED BEES AND HOW ITS DONE

If you would like to purchase bees from Beekind, please go to: <https://beekind.com/orderbees> or call our store at 707-824-2905. You can also purchase them in the store. Since we opened our store in Sebastopol eighteen years ago in 2004, Beekind Honey and Beekeeping Supply has coordinated with BZ Bees (Third Generation Beekeepers) in Esparto (in the beautiful organic region of Capay Valley) to provide our Package Bees. Esparto is only forty- two miles (as the crow flies) from Santa Rosa.

In 2012, we started using local queens mated with local drones here in Sonoma County to raise daughter queens that would go into our packages. We call these packages Beekind's Local Stock. These local queens are mixed breed mutts that have proven themselves in our area. Any drones produced by them would carry only our local genetics. As an option for our customers, we also carry Italian and Carniolan queen packages produced by BZ Bees. Package bee and queen production in Northern California begins with encouraging strong colonies near the queen mating area to rear drones in mid-February by feeding and providing frames of drone comb. Drone eggs laid mid-February will emerge in the second week of March and be mature enough to mate two weeks later, last week of March.

Queen cell builder colonies are set up in first week of March and grafting begins. Eleven days later, Queen mating nucs (small nucleus colonies) the size of half of a shoebox are assembled with three mini frames of comb, a cup of syrup, a cup of bees, and a queen cell. The mini-mating nucs are spread around a mating yard near the drone producing colonies and four to six days later in the last week of March, the queens will take mating flights, weather permitting. Catching the queens starts two to three weeks later in early to mid-April. The queen crew evaluates the laying pattern of each mated queen and then cages the good ones. Another queen cell is put in her place for a second round of queen production. The queens are stored in a queen banking hive filled with young nurse bees until they are needed for assembling the Bee Packages a few days later.

To assemble Bee Packages, you need a lot of bees in one place at one time. Keepers have identified the strongest hives in a bee yard and have put the queens in the lower box with a queen excluder between the boxes. To depopulate these hives, they are smoked from the entrance, driving the bees up into the top box and then the top box is taken off and placed onto a large cage. A leaf blower is then used to gently blow the bees down into the cage and the box is returned to the hive. The large cage will hold about twenty-five pounds of bees and it takes bees from a lot of hives to fill the cages. This mix of field bees and nurse bees is what is used to fill the package cages. The empty package cage funnel) and bees are poured into the funnel from the large cage until the scale says three is put on a scale (which is under a large pounds. A freshly mated queen (ready to lay eggs) held in a small queen cage and a can of syrup are placed in the package for easy removal. All this is usually done early in the morning and packages are then placed in a dark cooled room with fans circulating air overnight.

We pick-up the packages the next morning and bring them to Beekind in Sebastopol. They are loaded into a screened tent completely in the shade. If the weather is warm, we will mist them with cold water as needed to keep them cool. Customers come for the following two days between 10AM-6PM (on their pre-selected weekend) to pick-up their prepaid packages. For customers who have purchased bees from Beekind, we have developed a drive through package pickup system where you can sign up for a certain hour for pick-up. This minimizes wait times and traffic issues. We try to have our package bee pickup weekends the last two weekends in April because we feel that the weather and number of drones for the queen mating will be much better in the first two weeks of April, than the last two weeks of March. PLEASE NOTE: We will also have a limited number of laying queens available on the package bee pick-up weekends. Available for purchase then. We suggest you get your supplies and equipment early on and set up before you pick up your packages.

If you need supplies or equipment, our store is open every day. Order your supplies with our order form found at: https://beekind.com/SUPPLY_ORDER_FORM_2024.pdf and pick up your order within two weeks.