

BEEKEEPING 101
BEST PRACTICE NEEDS FOR ONE COLONY

COLONY START-UP AND GROWTH
FOR BROOD CHAMBER AND STARTING BEES:

To house your bees for the first three weeks to a month after you install them, you will need one completely assembled Basic Hive Set up with Deep or Medium box (Depending on preference). Some folks prefer the commercial standard of two deep boxes and one medium. Others prefer all medium boxes because they are lighter. NOTE: you will need 4 to five mediums to offer the same amount of space to bees. Below is a suggestion for needs as a beginning beekeeper. Please note that two separate colony set-ups are recommended by many books as you may use resources from one hive to boost the other (if needed).

FIRST MONTH

One package or swarm of bees
One bottom board
Insert tray insert for underneath bottom board
One hive box (deep or medium)
Eight frames with foundation (plastic or beeswax)
Two follower boards (work as insulating walls)
One inner cover (on top most box)
One outer cover
One entrance feeder (standard canning jar not provided)
One entrance reducer

SECOND MONTH (as your colony grows):

An additional hive box. Placed on top of the first box.
Be sure add in a timely manner. If you wait too long, your bees may swarm away.

THIRD MONTH (for honey production):

One to two additional medium hive boxes (depending on nectar flows in your area). These are over the brood chamber boxes during heavy nectar flows for collecting honey. You will typically remove this last box for overwintering your colony.

PROTECTION GEAR, SMOKER AND HIVE TOOLS:

Hat and Veil or jacket with veil (half suit) or full suit
A smoker
Fuel for smoker
Frame lifter tool
Basic hive tool

FEEDING BEES WHEN STARTING A PACKAGE Feeding bees is common practice when establishing a colony in boxes for the first time. Feed your bees a mixture of sugar water of 1 part pure cane sugar to 1 part fresh water helps the new colony build wax combs which are essential for egg production and storage of pollen and nectar. You will need approximately 20 lbs of sugar (non-organic) to establish a package of bees. Make sugar water in small batches as you need to avoid spoilage. Figure approximately one gallon a week. When starting a package for the first couple of weeks, we advise using a simple entrance feeder with a jar.

WINTER FEEDING To help supplement/feed hungry bees, the ratio is 2 parts sugar to 1 part water.

HIVE PLACEMENT Place your hive in full sun with afternoon shade (if possible) facing southeast on level ground with easy access about 13 inches off the ground. NOTE: There are many options to the above depending on preference, goals and various needs.

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