

Beginners Beekeeping List- Basics

YOU:

- 1) **Veil**, can be any hat with a veil or drawstring, or out of a catalog; Protect your FACE/EYES
- 2) **Gloves**, some do without, but no guarantee against stings; leather can be bulky & Clumsy; dish washing gloves are cheap & reusable, keeps hands clean
- 3) **Beesuits** can give you confidence when surrounded by bees, again no guarantee against stings; painters overalls are cheap, catalog suits can get hot, the ventilated suits are expensive but do breath; you can do without but be sure your shirt is tucked in and your pant cuffs are tucked into your socks (Bees crawl up!)
- 4) **Hive tool** will almost become part of your hand, a must to separate honey boxes (supers), it must be strong metal, paint scrapers will bend
- 5) **smokers** keep the bees subdued, best to always have one stoked when approaching the bees
- 6) **strong back/good body mechanics**; use your knees to pick-up and put down heavy bee boxes
- 7) felt tip marker, strong paper to write notes

THE HIVE:

- 1) **Hive stand** can be 2 cinder blocks; the hive must be elevated off the ground (cold, pests)
 - 2) **Bottom board**
 - 3) **2 deep hive boxes with 10 frames each** (these are for , each frame gets a sheet of wax (foundation), wired is better, at least 4 horizontal pins to hold the wax sheet in place- 2" bobby pins are good)
 - 4) **entrance reducer** to keep out cold and pests
 - 5) **2 honey supers** to go on top of the deep boxes, 10 frames each
 - 6) **inner cover** with oval center hole
 - 7) **metal clad heavy outer cover**
 - 8) **a rock or ratchet strap** (9-12 feet) to protect from winds
- NOTE: there are many variations as to basic sizes: 10 frame vs 8 frame / using all medium deep hive box or using the full size deep

THE BEES:

a feeder to get the bees started in a hive, can be a big jar or new paint can with nail holes and inverted over the inner cover or catalog feeders