

The Beekeeper's Year

It's more about timeliness than time: Hives need brief inspections and adjustments on a regular basis, although not a lot of time is involved overall.

Here's the general calendar:

March/April – gearing up for Spring:

Hive inspections every two or three weeks as weather permits, for adding hive bodies and performing mite and disease treatments.

May/June – busiest time:

Hive inspections every week or two for swarm control, adding honey supers, and managing a rapidly growing colony!

July/August – harvest time:

Hive inspections every two to three weeks. Honey harvest takes part or all of one day during this period.

September through November – winding down for Fall: Hive inspections every three to four weeks. Checking for mites, mite treatments, culling old frames, and winterizing.

December through February – down time: Not much to do. Repair and construct equipment, order new packages and queens. Check hives briefly during the first warm spell (over 60° F) of late winter.

Attend Bee School!

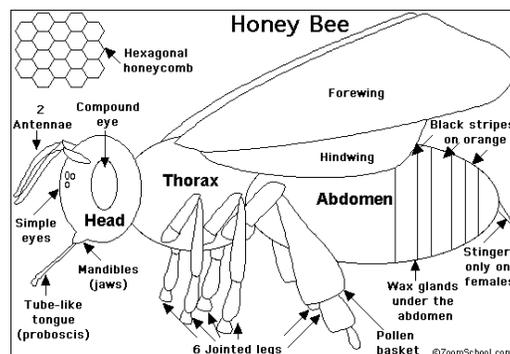
Sponsored by Rhode Island Beekeepers Association, classes cover everything a beginning beekeeper needs to know.

Classes begin in February and run for five weeks, located at RI College, Providence and University of RI, Kingston.

Modest tuition of \$65 includes all materials and free one-year membership in RIBA. Bring along one family member for just \$10.00.

For exact dates, details and registration, please see our website:

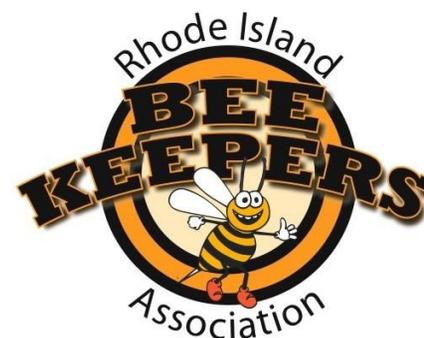
www.ribeekeeper.org



Rhode Island Beekeepers Association

Dedicated to raising public awareness of the many benefits of beekeeping.

It's a lot more than just honey!



Beekeeping can be:

Fun
Profitable
Educational
A Valuable Service

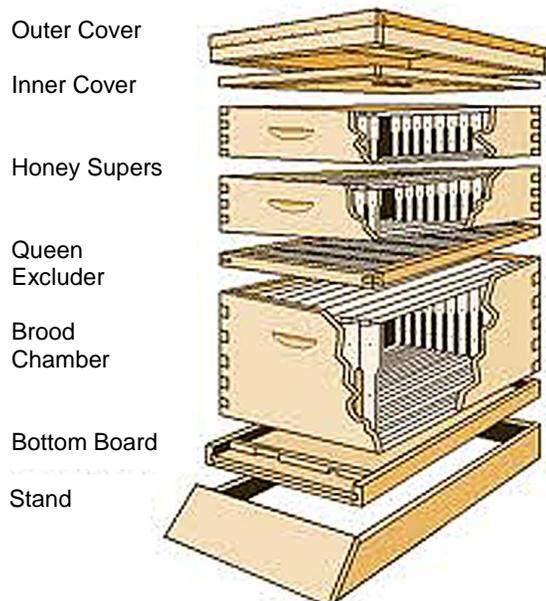
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What's in it for you?

You may keep bees to...

- ♥ Produce honey for your family, as gifts to others and to sell.
- ♥ Produce other hive products, such as pollen, beeswax, and propolis.
- ♥ Serve as pollinators for your garden and your neighborhood, or to rent out for income.
- ♥ Provide a fascinating enjoyable hobby for you and your family.
- ♥ Meet other local beekeepers for support, ideas and social events.
- ♥ *Help save the bees from devastating world-wide parasites and disorders.*

A Basic Beehive



Albert Einstein once said that if all the honeybees were to die, mankind would follow in four years. That is how important a role bees play in man's food chain.

Agricultural industry relies heavily on the pollination services of migratory beekeepers. By placing their beehives in the fields and orchards as the various crops are blooming, these beekeepers ensure good pollination which results in an abundant harvest. For the oranges of Florida, the blueberries of Maine, the cranberries of Massachusetts and the almonds of California, millions of honeybees work themselves to death in their in their short 6 to 7 week lifespan.

So the next time you put honey in your tea, or drink a glass of orange juice, or enjoy a piece of freshly baked apple pie, remember that it is only possible due to the tireless efforts of the honeybee.

Facts About Bees and Honey

Bees can fly up to three miles from the hive in search of nectar and pollen. Top speed is about fifteen miles per hour.

All worker bees are female. Males (drones) contribute nothing to the hive. They exist for the sole purpose of mating with a queen bee.

The average worker bee makes 1/12 teaspoon of honey in her lifetime. A productive hive can yield over 100 pounds of honey in a good year.

Bees have been producing honey from flowering plants for 10 – 20 million years.

Consumption of raw local honey, which contains grains of pollen from local plants can, over time, desensitize a person to the effects of local pollen.

To substitute honey for sugar in recipes:
¾ cup of honey = 1 cup of sugar.
Reduce other liquids by ¼ to ½ cup.

Apitherapy is the use of bee products such as propolis, royal jelly, and bee sting therapy to treat health disorders including rheumatoid and osteoarthritis, multiple sclerosis, chronic fatigue syndrome, bursitis, tendinitis, lupus, gout and others.

And finally, "The secret of my health is applying honey inside and oil outside" said Democritus, 5th century B.C. Greece. He lived to be 109.



Ancient Egyptian bee symbol