

About the Farm

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Location

The location of the apiary should be in such a position that it is protected by windbreaks and receives a fair amount of shade. Of course, the most desirable position is a private enclosure containing the home grounds, so that the bees will be undisturbed from wandering animals, and be in sight of the house when any swarms may come and for general handiness. Bees will travel one or two miles to obtain their supplies, and it is as well to remember this fact when considering your location. Low or swampy land should not be chosen for the site of the apiary. The hives should be protected from high winds on the side where the winds prevail. This may be accomplished by the use of a hedge or shelter fence. If the apiary is located near high trees, the recovery of a swarm is likely to be more difficult than where the trees are low. To get the early morning sun on the hives is an advantage, therefore do not place them on the west side of a building. Place the hives in a row, about six feet between each; such a system allows one to keep the grass cut around the hives, which is important.

Nectar-producing Flowers

Among the principal sources of honey are the following plants: Manitoba Maple, Caragana, Wild Plum, Lilac, Honeysuckle, White Clover, Alfalfa, Basswood, Sweet Clover, Golden Rod. A beekeeper located in a district producing such plants may assure himself of, at least, a good field of labor for his bees.

Bee-Keepers' Supplies

The winter is the best time for the purchase of most of the supplies though the purchase of foundation for the combs is better delayed until spring, as it is brittle in cold weather.

The following may be the only requirements for the first year: Two hives of bees (Langstroth 10-frame), two extra hives, one smoker, two extracting supers, one bee veil, one honey extractor, one pound foundation, two queen excluders for the bottom of the extracting supers.

A Popular Breed

The Italian bee is recommended as docile and generally satisfactory. They were introduced into America in 1860, and are easily distinguished by their golden yellow banding. They are becoming more popular than the common black bees and are better workers.

Management

The bees should be set out in the selected location as soon as they are received, and the hives inspected once a week in the season.

To inspect, the beekeeper should approach the hives from the back, having previously got the smoker in working order; the smoker having been filled with dry rotten wood, old sacking, or rags. Reach round the hive and send one or two puffs of smoke into the entrance, lift the back of the cover a few inches and send a few puffs of smoke in there, also in order to drive the bees down between the frames. In order to be on the safe side, gloves with gauntlet cuffs and a veil may be worn during the inspection. A screwdriver or a similar tool is handy to raise the ends of the frames, but all jerks and knocks should be avoided. On finding a comb with a complete store of honey, the bees should be gently brushed with a whisk so as to fall on the ground in front of the entrance of the hive, and then the full comb placed into a tin box into which no bees should be allowed to enter. As each full comb is taken out, an empty one should be put in its place, but in the case of a new apiary being started, of course a frame of foundation will have to take the place of the comb on which the bees will start to build cells. After the inspection, the cover should be gently replaced, and the full combs may be taken away for extraction.

Swarming

It is advisable to keep swarming under control as much as possible. If the bee-

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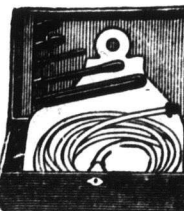
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