

therefore, believe that the investment of capital in the bee business is attended with no greater risk of loss than if invested in any other legitimate business venture.

If we have once decided to make bee-keeping our business, and have any hampering prefixes or suffixes coupled with it, we must begin at once to amputate at both ends if we expect to have a full measure of success. There are critical times in every apiary when the apiarist cannot possibly be bothered with any other work and must put in full time with his bees.

A successful bee-keeper can never afford to procrastinate, for procrastination is the thief of honey and money to the apiarist. If we put off for a single day the giving of more surplus room to the bees, when needed, it means the loss of many dollars in a large apiary.

We will now look about us and see what conditions are necessary to the successful prosecution of the business. First, and the most important factor, in my opinion, is location. Fortunately, our old State of Pennsylvania is very lavish in giving us a great variety of honey-producing flora, and I do not think there is a single locality in the State that would not support from ten to one hundred colonies of bees. In looking about for a good location for our apiaries we should take the lay of the ground and the abundance of honey-bearing flowers into careful consideration. The character of the soil should also be studied. If I were to choose the ground for an apiary, I should try to get a piece of ground that is dry, and which would never become wet or flooded. It should slope gently to the south or southeast, with a hill or on elevation on the north and west of the apiary to protect it from heavy wind storms and cold blasts, especially if the bees be wintered on their summer stands. A brook or small stream of water close to the apiary is also very desirable, as the bees will not thus have to go far from their hives for water. Many bees

are lost in the early spring by being compelled to go too great a distance for their supply of water. The cold chilling winds of this season are fatal to bees.

Having found a place like this, with plenty of honey-yielding flowers within easy reach, we have an ideal location.

We must now study the flowers and find out when they bloom, and when we may expect a yield of honey or pollen from them, so that we may be ready for the honey flow when it comes, and then we should manage our bees accordingly. As the honey flora is essentially uniform throughout the State, the management of the bees is practically the same. In this connection I might mention the most important honey and pollen-yielding plants of our State. By the time spring has fairly begun, the tag alders and the willows blossom and the bees revel in their pollen, the first of the season. (Brood-rearing now begins in full blast.) This is followed by the opening of the soft maples, with their bounteous supply of both honey and pollen. Dandelions, sugar maples, fruit trees and dogwood follow in close succession. A short intermission now takes place, then the raspberries come into bloom, followed closely by the clovers with their feast for the bees. Before the clovers cease to yield, buckwheat is beginning to give out its fragrance, and next the season closes with a sea of goldenrod and asters.

This is a list of the most important honey plants in my location, and I give it as a hint to the prospective specialist. It is what I consider a fairly good location for the bee-keeping business. This is by no means a full list of the honey and pollen-bearing trees and plants that are visited by bees. There are many others of minor importance. I have omitted the linden or basswood tree, because very little of it grows in my locality, but it is one of our most profuse honey-yielding trees in parts of our State where it has not yet been cut down and destroyed by lumbermen.

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