

HOW LONG SHOULD WE KEEP QUEENS?

The writer does not believe it wise to keep a queen after she is three years old unless she is an exceptionally good one. Old queens often die during the winter and in the spring the beekeeper finds the colony queenless. This is the time of the year that young queens are most valuable.

Young queens, as a rule, lay eggs late in the fall and the bees hatched from these eggs live until the following spring, thus giving a strong force of workers to keep up the heat of the hive during the cool spring weather.

The approximate time taken for the development of the different individuals in the hive is as follows:

	Egg	Larva	Pupa Sealed	Total Time
Queen	3 days	5½ days	7 days	15½ days
Drone	3 days	6 days	15 days	24 days
Worker	3 days	5 days	13 days	21 days

LOCATION OF THE APIARY

In selecting a place for bee-keeping, two points arise. First, whether the situation is good for hives; and whether the locality is good for bees. The hives should be well protected from north and west winds by a bluff of trees, a ledge, a hill, or a high-board fence.

AN IDEAL SPOT

An ideal spot would be one having a southeasterly slope where the hives could get the sunshine, especially in the early morning. The entrance of the hive should face in a southerly direction, the hive being set level from side to side and a trifle higher at the rear than it is in the front. This prevents water from running in the door of the hive and also makes it easier for the bees to clean out their hive.

In many parts of the West there are districts, now unoccupied by beekeepers, where apiaries could be kept with profit. White clover, dandelion, goldenrod, and many wild plants grow abundantly almost everywhere, while in certain sections these are found in such profusion as to furnish large surpluses of honey during favorable seasons.

It has been thought sometimes by persons not acquainted with the facts, that we are too far north and west for successful apiculture. However, this is not the case, as our honey crop per colony is equal to, if not larger than, that of the East; this is due to the longer period of daylight during the summer months, and to the fact that our bees gather honey from a large variety of plants which continue to bloom over a long period of time.

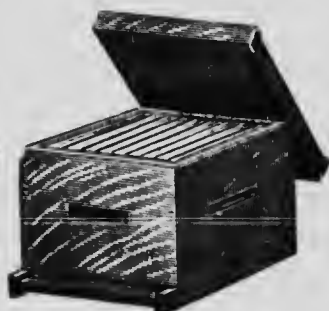
A good locality for beekeeping should have an average number of flowering plants, a certain amount of shelter for the hives and some place where the bees can obtain water.



Bee Brush



No. 1 Hive, 8 frame.



No. 1 Hive, 10 frame