

marked. The percentage of such abnormal colonies in a well-regulated cellar will be small, and, after they are set out, only these need be disturbed by changing bottom boards, giving feed, or examining for queen condition. The danger of robbing and exposure to cold in giving immediate attention to the apiary will thus be greatly reduced.

As the flight of bees is very subject to temperature, light and wind, the weather for setting out must be carefully considered. In fact, the beekeeper needs to be a student of the weather at all times, also of the daily reports of the Weather Bureau. One of the best means of forecasting the weather is to study sunsets. It is not easy to describe the sunset which forecasts a bright or stormy day; but, by taking note of the general appearance of the evening sky and noting the sort of day which follows it, one soon becomes a rather good weather prophet.



Birdseye view of O.A.C. Apiary in summer. Note hives in background left in single cases. Some consider summer packing a factor in swarm control. Supers are added within the case.

The usual time for taking bees out is the evening before or the morning of the day which promises to be fine and still, but not too hot. When such a day is expected the doors and windows are opened at sunset to cool the cellar. The hives may at once be placed on their stands by moonlight, or in the early morning, while the air is still frosty. If the day fulfils the beekeeper's expectation it will be still, bright and moderately warm, about 60° to 70° F. The bees will have a splendid flight, and everything will go well.

Unfortunately, however, spring weather is uncertain, and if, when the air is full of flying bees, the sky becomes overcast and the temperature begins to drop and a stiff breeze strikes up, much drifting will result and many bees may be blown on the ground to chill and die. In small apiaries this danger is reduced to a minimum, but where there are many colonies it is safer to select a time when indications are for dull weather for two or three days. Then, at sunset, start carrying out the hives and continue until they are placed on their summer stands, even if it takes until after midnight.