

Beginners often make the mistake of trying to examine the bees during the winter to ascertain, if possible, the condition of the colony. Have proper cellar conditions and do not disturb the bees until they are to be placed on their summer stands in the spring.

A number of our beekeepers in Manitoba winter their bees outdoors by packing them with oat chaff, saw-dust, or dry leaves. From experiments conducted at the Agricultural College, we have found that bees wintered in this way must be populous, and have at least eight inches of packing on the sides, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet above for best results. It is impossible to give too much packing. The writer would not advise those who have good cellars or basements to try outside wintering.

Several beekeepers winter their bees in camps, as outlined in some of our bee-hooks. From experiments conducted by the writer, this method of wintering is a success only where the soil is dry and sandy.

Many are able to bring their bees through the winter alive, but in very poor condition. Successful wintering means having the colonies populous in the early spring so that they will be able to gather an abundant harvest during the honey flow.

Take the bees from the cellar when the willow comes in bloom. Protect them from the cold North and West winds in the spring and if necessary feed to build them up for summer.

Much of our winter loss is due to carelessness on the part of the beekeeper. If bees are worth keeping they are worth the necessary attention. Care and attention will insure you a large honey yield in Manitoba nine years out of ten.

R. M. MUCKLE,
Provincial Apiarist.

Firms Handling Bee Supplies in Manitoba.

General Supplies.—Andrews & Sons, Portage and Victor Sts., Winnipeg. Steele Briggs Seed Co., Winnipeg.

Honey Tins.—Sheet Metal Product Co., Winnipeg.

Comb Foundation Manufacturers.—Thos. Gelly, East Kildonan. Geo. Wood, Emerson.

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