Introduction to Beekeeping

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Setting Up New Hives

- Two main Types
  - Nucs
  - Package
Nucs

- **Pros**
  - Already Established
  - Accepted Queen
  - Drawn Comb
  - Available earlier in the year (in some areas)

- **Cons**
  - Diseases Already Present
  - Old Queen
Pros

- Wider availability of bee types
- Buy queens separate
- Start from scratch

Cons

- Longer start up time
- Reject queen
- Disease
When To DO What

- **Order**
  - For spring delivery order in September
  - Usually delivered in April- May

- **Install**
  - North Florida
    - March
  - South Florida
    - February
How to Order

- Packages
  - Google suppliers
  - Ask around
- Nucs
  - Contact local beekeepers club
    - http://floridabeekeepers.org/
    - Click on “Local” on left side
When to Look

- Recommended every 7-10 days during spring and summer
  - Every 2-3 weeks in fall
  - Check as needed in winter
- Check for bees, brood, eggs, honey, pollen and signs of distress
What to Look For

- Signs Colonies are doing well
  - Bees well up when hive opens
  - Solid brood/egg pattern
  - Pulling comb
  - Honey and pollen stores

http://www.ent.uga.edu/Bees/disorders/non-infectious-diseases-pests.html
What to Look For

- Signs colonies are NOT doing well
  - Dead Bees
  - Little brood or spotty brood
  - No honey and/or pollen stored
  - Multiple eggs per cell
  - Only drone brood
  - Diseases

http://www.ent.uga.edu/Bees/disorders/non-infectious-diseases-pests.html
All bee hives MUST be registered and inspected by DPI (It’s the law)

Inspection information

- www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/plantinsp/apiary/apiary.html

- Inspections help to control diseases and pest such as AFB and AHB

- Good source of information
Inspections

- For Brevard, Indian River, Orange, Osceola, St. Lucie & Volusia Counties call Jerry Crews
  - crewsj1@doacs.state.fl.us
  - 4330 4th ST
  - Vero Beach, FL 32968
  - Phone: (772) 778-7254
  - Alternate Phone: (772) 473-1655

Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Division of Plant Industry
Harvesting

- Harvest after spring flow (April – June) and in South Florida after fall flow
  - Leave one super on “for the bees”
- Subsequent harvest as needed
Spring (January- March)
- Set up new hives
- Add supers as needed
- Monitor for swarming
- Treat for diseases and pests (Nosema, SHB, and AFB)

Summer (April- June)
- Add supers as needed
- Harvest honey
- Monitor for swarming
- Split colonies
- Check for diseases and pests (Varroa)
  - Do not treat during nectar flow
Time table of the Year

- Fall (July- September)
  - Check pollen and honey stores
  - Feed as needed
  - Remove unused supers
  - Treat for disease and pests (Varroa, SHB and Nosema)

- Winter
  - Check pollen and honey stores
  - Feed as needed
  - Treat for diseases and pest (Nosema, AFB, Varroa and Tracheal mites)
Where to Find More Info

- UF honey bee site
  - www.ufhoneybee.com
- UF Africanized bee site
  - www.afbee.com
- Melitto Files
  - Quarterly News letter (also available at www.ufhoneybee.com)
- Apiary Inspection
  - www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/plantinsp/apiary/apiary.html
- Florida State Beekeepers Association
  - http://floridabeekeepers.org/
- EDIS (great source of information)
  - http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/