

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



Packages

- 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>



Inspections

- 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

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



Timetable of the Year

- 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/>