

FOUR WAYS TO GET STARTED

Package Bees

- * typically 3lb (2, 5 avail) approx 3,500 bees/lb
- * marked queens easier to find
- * approx \$130
- * queen will be separate – should be mated
- * 21 days until new brood hatches
- * must build comb, need to be fed
- * no honey harvest the first year
- * usually available earlier than nucleus colonies

Nucleus Colony "Nuc"

- * bees PLUS 3-5 drawn frames, with:
pollen, honey, eggs, open brood
- * queen is mated and laying
- * cost approx \$175 (+ equip deposit or exchange)
- * can stay in a nuc (backup queen) or
transfer to / start new full colony
- * build quicker than a package (head start), can reach full strength in the first season

Swarm

- * queen with & from this colony
 - * ready to build comb and lay eggs
 - * free! ☺
 - * "save this adventure for year two" -Blackiston
- "A swarm in May is worth a load of hay,
A swarm in June is worth a silver spoon,
A swarm in July isn't worth a fly"

Established Colony

- * more challenging – more defensive, bigger
- * harder to inspect – more propolis
- * you miss out on watching them "grow"
- * make sure they're healthy; state apiary health inspection (or experienced Beek)

"Installing a Package" video by Brushy Mountain Bee Farm (14:30 min) [8-frame, frame feeder]
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_31TcM7J-SU

video from Kelley Beekeeping (6:30) [beeyard, Boardman feeder, rag "plug"]
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHflUXyTJ44>

(NOTE: use THIN sugar water – one part sugar to two parts water)

IDEAL APIARY LOCATION

- * Consider any local zoning / prohibitions
- * Accessible to you (any locked gates?); room to park & turn
- * Away from pedestrian traffic, animals & too much visibility – 6-8' fence or hedge can help (people can be afraid; thieves/vandals; livestock scratch/rub; bears)
- * Direct sunlight best for bees (less Varroa & SHB, which pupates in the ground) (some afternoon shade good for beekeepers ☺)
- * Avoid low-lying areas (humidity, flooding)
- * Water source in 1/2 mile (not neighbor's pool)
- * Abundant flowers & trees (other hives in area?)
- * Wind break to the north if winter is severe

A picture-perfect beeyard. *From Beekeeping for Dummies* by Howland Blackiston

