

Buzzwords

Apiary: that south facing sweet spot with dappled sunlight where your hives live

Apiculture: the art of tending honeybees

Apitherapy: the medicinal use of honey bee products, including honey, pollen, bee bread, propolis, royal jelly and the ever potent honey bee venom

Bearding: cluster of honeybees on the outside of the hive (near the entrance) usually due to heat

Bee bread: pollen that has been processed by honey bees with the addition of various enzymes and honey, which subsequently ferments thus making it more digestible and further enriched with nutrients

Beek: commonly used abbreviation for beekeeper

Brood: developing bees in cells at various stages

Brood chamber/nest: combs consisting of primarily brood usually in the center of the hive, i.e. the nursery

Dearth: seasonal times when there is a lack of nectar to be foraged

Fanning: Bees sending a “homing signal” by revealing their Nasonov glands with the tip of their abdomen pointed upward. This is mostly done during swarming or orientation flights at a new hive.

Gangbusters: hive that is growing rapidly, producing lots of bees and honey

Hive body: woodenware that houses brood, pollen, honey, and bees

“Hot” hive: beehive that has become aggressive due to various factors

Marriage/Nuptial flight: when the Queen leaves the hive and flies far up into the ethers to mate with drones

Nectar flow: seasonal times when there is an abundance of nectar and bees are able to create honey stores



Buzzwords cont'd

Newbee: one who has recently begun stewarding bees

Nuc: short for nucleus, a small hive consisting of 3-5 frames of bees, brood, pollen and ideally, honey

Orientation flight: maidens emerge from the hive in large numbers to acquaint themselves with their surroundings (homing) before they begin their duty as foragers

Piping: high pitched sound a young Queen makes in swarming colonies or when confined

Package: 3-5 lbs of generally unrelated honeybees, often accompanied by a caged Queen

Pollen baskets: place where bees store pollen on hind legs en route to the hive

Propolis: sticky substance bees make from conifer tree sap that is used for sealing the hive and inhibiting the growth of viruses and bacteria. Commonly used in herbal and holistic medicines due to its highly anti-viral, bacterial, and fungal qualities.

Robbing: when foragers try to invade another hive to imbibe stored honey that does not belong to them. This can cause lethal fighting amongst neighboring hives.

Royal jelly: a honey bee secretion that is used to nourish larvae and adult queens

Super: boxes that are added on top of the brood nest for honey stores

Swarm: the natural means of reproduction of honey bee colonies.

Swarm cell: peanut-like Queen cell most often found hanging on the edge of a comb in the brood chamber of a robust hive. Bees will likely swarm around the time of this cell being capped.

Supersedure cell: peanut-like Queen cell usually attached to the center of the brood comb. Bees are likely plotting to overthrow the reigning Queen.

Queen cup: goblet-shaped open cell awaiting an egg to either build a swarm or supersedure cell.

