

## Beekeeping Vocabulary

**Apiary** - the term for where bees are raised. The area of your yard where the hive is, also called a bee yard.

**Apiculture** - the art and science of studying and raising bees

**Bee Brush** - A soft bristled brush used for brushing bees off a hive or a frame.

**Bee veil** - The thin netting that covers your head and face as part of your bee suit.

**Bottom Board** - The base of the beehive that the whole hive sits on

**Brood** - this refers to immature bees while they are still in their cells. They are going through the stages of egg, larvae and pupae.

**Brood Chamber or Box** - The part of the hive where the queen is laying eggs. Usually the bottom most boxes.

**Capped Brood** - Brood cells that have been capped over with wax. They are at the point where they will spin cocoons and turn into larvae.

**Deep Super** - Usually used as the brood area it is 9 5/8 inches deep and takes 9 1/8" frames, dimensions of a Langstroth hive.

**Drone** - The male honey bee

**Entrance reducer** - A strip of wood notched that covers the hive entrance. It helps to control the in and out flow of bees and helps to maintain the temperature of the hive.

**Extractor** - A machine that spins the frames of honeycomb extracting the honey.

**Foulbrood** - A very contagious and serious bacterial disease of bee brood.

**Foundation** - Thin sheets of beeswax or plastic embossed or stamped with the base of a worker cells on which bees will construct a complete comb (called drawn comb).

**Frame** - A rectangular structure of wood designed to hold honey comb, consisting of a top bar, two end bars, and a bottom bar; usually spaced a bee-space apart in the super.

**Guard bees** - Worker bees usually fourteen and twenty days old that monitor the entrance and scrutinize any bees or other insects attempting entry.

**Hive tool** - a metal hand tool that looks similar to a pry-bar. It is used for opening hives and removing frames.

**Hiving** - This is the process of getting an order of bees and putting them into their new hive.

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**Honeycomb** - Drawn out wax comb that is filled with honey

**Honey super** - A box with frames in which bees store honey; usually placed above the brood nest.

**Inner Cover** - A flat wooden cover that goes on top of the uppermost box. It should have a ventilation hole in it.

**Laying workers** - Worker bees which lay eggs in a colony hopelessly queenless; such eggs are not fertilized, since the workers cannot mate, and therefore become drones.

**Medium super** - A box that is 6 5/8" in depth which holds 6 1/4" frames, dimensions of a Langstroth hive.

**Nectar** - A liquid produced by flowers. This is what the bees collect and turn into honey.

**Nosema** - Diseases of the digestive tract of bees. There are two, *Nosema apis* and *Nosema ceranae*.

**Nucleus Hive** - A small starter hive that usually contains 3-5 frames of bees with a queen, honey and pollen.

**Nuc** - This is the commonly used way of referring to a nucleus hive.

**Package bees** - Worker bees, usually 2 to 4 pounds, with or without a queen, contained in a screened shipping cage.

**Parasitic Mites** - Varroa and tracheal mites are the mites with economic and health issues for bees.

**Pollen** - produced by flowers and collected by bees as a food source, it provides protein.

**Pollen basket** - An anatomical structure on the bees rear legs where pollen and propolis is carried.

**Prime swarm** - The first swarm to leave the parent colony, usually with the old queen.

**Proboscis** - The mouthparts of the bee that form the sucking tube or tongue

**Propolis** - Plant resins collected, mixed with enzymes from bee saliva and used to fill in small spaces inside the hive also to coat and sterilize everything in the hive. It has antimicrobial properties.

**Propolize** - To fill with propolis.

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**Pupa** - The third stage in the development of the bee during which it is inactive and sealed in its cocoon.

**Queen** - A fully developed female bee responsible for all the egg laying of a colony.

**Queen Cell** – A peanut shaped vertically hanging cell in which a queen develops.

**Queen cup** - A cup-shaped cell that hangs vertically from the comb, but containing no egg; also made artificially of wax or plastic to raise queens.

**Queen Excluder** - A device made of wire, wood or plastic which permits workers to pass but excludes queens and drones; used to confine the queen to a specific part of the hive, usually the brood nest.

**Queenright** - A colony that contains a queen capable of laying fertile eggs and making appropriate pheromones that satisfy the workers of the hive.

**Requeen** - To replace an existing queen by removing her and introducing a new queen.

**Royal Jelly** - A highly nutritious, milky white secretion of the hypopharyngeal gland of nurse bees; used to feed the queen and young larvae.

**Screened Bottom Board** - A bottom board with usually #8 hardware cloth for the bottom to allow ventilation and to allow Varroa mites to fall through.

**Shallow super** – A box with a depth of 5 11/16 inches which holds 5 3/8" frames, dimensions of a Langstroth hive.

**Smoker** - A metal container for fire with a bellows. The smoke is used to calm the bees.

**Solid Bottom Board** - The floor of a bee hive.

**Split** - To divide a colony of bees for the purpose of increasing the number of bee hives or for the sale of nucs.

**Super** - A box with frames in which bees store honey; usually placed above the brood nest.

**Supering** - The act of placing honey supers on a colony in expectation of a honey flow.

**Supersedure** - The process where a colony replaces an old or ailing queen with a new one.

**Telescoping cover** - The external cover with a rim that usually hangs down over the hive that is weather proof it sits on top of the inner cover.

**Uncapping knife** - A knife used to shave off the wax cappings of sealed honey prior to extraction.

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**Uncapping tank** - A two box system with a strainer between which the frames of honey are uncapped over, the wax cappings land in the tank and any honey is strained down to the bottom tank which has a gate to allow the honey to flow out.

**Uncapping Scratcher** – A fork like tool with metal tines used to scratch honey cells for extracting. These tools also come in handy for checking drone brood for varroa mites by simply pushing it into the capped cell and lifting out the white drone larvae to easily see any mites.

**Wax glands** – Glands on the underside of worker bees which secrete wax from eight wax-producing mirror glands on the inner sides of the sternites (the ventral shield or plate of each segment of the body) on abdominal segments 4 to 7. The sizes of the wax glands depend on the age of the worker, after daily flights these glands begin to gradually atrophy.

**Winter cluster** - A tight ball of bees which forms when the outside temperature falls below 50 degrees F., the bees vibrate their wing muscles to generate heat

**Worker bees** - Infertile female bees whose reproductive organs are only partially developed, responsible for carrying out all the forging, brood rearing, guarding and other functions of the colony.