

Abscond = When the entire colony of bees abandons the hive because of pests, disease or other adverse conditions.

Apiary = A bee yard.

Apis mellifera = The bee originating in Europe.

Bearding = When bees congregate on the front of the hive.

Bee bread = Fermented pollen stored in the hive and used to feed brood and the queen.

Bee brush = Soft brush or whisk or large feather or handful of grass used to remove bees from combs.

Bee space = A space between 1/4 and 3/8 inch (6mm and 10mm) which permits free passage for a bee but too small to encourage comb building, and too large to induce propolizing.

Beelining = Finding feral bees by establishing the line which the bees fly back to their home. This can also include marking and timing the bees to get the distance and triangulating the location by releasing the bees from various places.

Bottom bar = The horizontal piece of the frame that is on the bottom of the frame.

Bottom board = The floor of a bee hive.

Brood = Immature bees not yet emerged from their cells; in other words, egg, larvae or pupae.

Brood chamber = The part of the hive in which the brood is reared; may include one or more hive bodies and the combs within. Sometimes used to refer to a deep box as these are commonly used for brood.

Burr comb = Small pieces of comb outside of the normal space in the frame where comb usually is. Brace comb would fall into this category.

Cappings = The thin wax covering over honey; once cut off of extracting frames.

Cell = The hexagonal compartment of a honey comb.

Chunk honey = Honey in the comb, but not in sections, frequently cut and packed into jars then filled with liquid honey.

Colony = The aggregate of worker bees, drones, queen, and developing brood living together as a family unit in a hive or other dwelling

Colony Collapse Disorder = A recently named problem where most of the bees in most of the hives in an apiary disappear leaving a queen, healthy brood and only a few bees in the hive with plenty of stores.

Comb = The wax portion of a colony in which eggs are laid, and honey and pollen are stored shaped like hexagons.

Comb foundation = A commercially made structure consisting of thin sheets of beeswax with the cell bases of worker cells embossed on both sides to induce the bees to build a particular size of cells.

Compressing a hive = Removing all excess space that is not occupied by the bees. This is a solution to several beekeeping problems including a failure to thrive, wax moths and small hive beetles as well as good preparation for winter.

Creamed honey = Honey that has undergone controlled granulation to produce a finely textured candied or crystallized honey which spreads easily at room temperature. This usually involves adding fine "seed" crystals and keeping at 57° F (14° C).

Crimp-wired foundation = Comb foundation into which crimp wire is embedded vertically during foundation manufacture.

Cut-out = Removing a colony of bees from somewhere that they don't have movable comb by cutting out the combs and tying them into frames.

Deep = A box that is 9 5/8" deep and the frame is 9 1/4" deep. Sometimes called a Langstroth Deep.

Deformed Wing Virus = A virus spread by the Varroa mite that causes crumpled looking wings on fuzzy newly emerged bees.

Division board = A wooden or plastic piece like a frame but tight all the way around used to divide one box into more compartments for nucs.

Division board feeder or Frame feeder = A wooden or plastic compartment which is hung in a hive like a frame and contains sugar syrup to feed bees. The original designation (Division) was because it was *used* to make a division between two halves of a box to divide it into nucs, usually for queen rearing or making increase (splits). Most of what is sold under this name have a beespace around them now and cannot be used to make a division.

Drawn combs = Full depth comb ready for brood or nectar with the cell walls drawn out by the bees, completing the comb as opposed to foundation that has not been worked by the bees and has no cell walls yet.

Drifting = The movement of bees that have lost their location and enter hives other than their own home. This happens often when hives are placed

in long straight rows where returning foragers from the center hives tend to drift to the row ends or when making splits and the field bees drift back to the original hive

Drone = The male honeybee which comes from an unfertilized egg (and is therefore haploid) laid by a queen or less commonly, a laying worker.

Drone laying queen = A queen that can lay only unfertilized eggs, due to age, improper or late mating, disease or injury.

Fermenting honey = Honey which contains too much water (greater than 20%) in which yeast has grown and caused it to turn into carbon dioxide, water and alcohol.

Foragers = Worker bees which are usually 21 or more days old and work outside to collect nectar, pollen, water and propolis; also called field bees.

Foundation = Thin sheets of beeswax embossed or stamped with the base of a worker (or rarely drone) cells on which bees will construct a complete comb (called drawn comb); also referred to as comb foundation, it comes wired or unwired and also in plastic as well as one piece foundations and frames as well as different thicknesses (thin surplus, surplus, medium) and different cell sizes (brood = 5.4mm, small cell = 4.9mm, drone = 6.6mm).

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.

Fumadil-B = The old trade name for Fumagillin, Bicyclohexyl-ammonium fumagillin, is a whitish soluble antibiotic powder discovered in 1952; some beekeepers mix this with sugar syrup and fed to bees to control Nosema disease. Its use in beekeeping is outlawed in the European Union because it is a suspected teratogen (causes birth defects). Fumagillin can block blood vessel formation by binding to an enzyme called methionine aminopeptidase. Targeted gene disruption of methionine aminopeptidase 2 results in an embryonic gastrulation defect and endothelial cell growth arrest. Fumadil is made from the fungus that causes stonebrood, *Aspergillus fumigatus*.

Fume board = A device used to hold a set amount of a volatile chemical (A bee repellent like Bee Go or Honey Robber or Bee Quick) to drive bees from supers.

Granulate = The process by which honey, a super-saturated solution (more solids than liquid) will become solid or crystallize; speed of granulation depends of the kinds of sugars in the honey, the crystal seeds (such as pollen or sugar crystals) and the temperature. Optimum temperature for granulation is 57° F (14° C).

Guard bees = Worker bees about three weeks old, which have their maximum amount of alarm pheromone and venom; they challenge all incoming bees and other intruders.

Hemolymph = The scientific name for insect "blood."

Honey bound = A condition where the brood nest of a hive is being backfilled with honey. This is a normal condition that is used by the workers to shut down the queen's brood production. It usually happens just before swarming and in the fall to prepare for winter.

Honey Bee Healthy = A mixture of essential oils (lemon grass and peppermint) sold to boost the immune system of the bees.

Honey extractor = A machine which removes honey from the cells of comb by centrifugal force.

Honey flow = A time when enough nectar-bearing plants are blooming such that bees can store a surplus of honey.

Honey supers = Refers to boxes of frames used for honey production. From the Latin "super" for above as a designation for any box above the brood nest.

Inner cover = An insulating cover fitting on top of the top super but underneath the outer cover, with an oblong hole in the center. Used to be called a "quilt board". In the old days these were often made of cloth.

Landing board = A small platform at the entrance of the hive for the bees to land on before entering the hive.

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

Lemon Grass essential oil = Essential oil used for swarm lure. Lemongrass oil contains all of the compounds known to affect the behavior of the bees and all but one of the compounds of Nasonov pheromone. Lemongrass oil major components:

- geraniol (isomer of nerol)
- nerolic acid (isomer of geranic acid)
- (E)-citral (geranial)
- (Z)-citral (neral)
- geranic acid (isomer of nerolic acid)
- farnesol

- **Mating flight** = The flight taken by a virgin queen while she mates in the air with several drones.
- **Mating nuc** = A small nuc for the purpose of getting queens mated used in queen rearing. These vary from two frames of the standard size used by that beekeeper for brood, to the mini-mating nucs sold for that purpose with smaller than normal frames.

Medium = A box that is 6 5/8" in depth and the frames are 6 1/4" in depth. AKA Illinois AKA Western AKA 3/4 depth.

Migratory cover = An outer cover used without an inner cover that does not telescope over the sides of the hive; used by commercial beekeepers who frequently move hives. This allows hives to be packed tightly against one another because the cover does not protrude over the sides.

Mouse guard = A device to reduce the entrance to a hive so that mice cannot enter. Commonly #4 hardware cloth.

Nectar = A liquid rich in sugars, manufactured by plants and secreted by nectary glands in or near flowers; the raw material for honey.

Nectar flow = A period of time when nectar is available.

Newspaper method = A technique to join together two strange colonies by providing a temporary newspaper barrier.

Nuc, nuclei, nucleus = A small colony of bees often used in queen rearing or the box in which the small colony of bees resides. The term refers to the fact that the essentials, bees, brood, food, a queen or the means to make one, are there for it to grow into a colony, but it is not a full sized colony.

Nurse bees = Young bees, usually three to ten days old, which feed and take care of developing brood.

Observation Hive = A hive made largely of glass or clear plastic to permit observation of bees at work

Outer cover = The last cover that fits over a hive to protect it from rain; the two most common kinds are telescoping and migratory covers.

Play flights aka orientation flights = Short flights taken in front and in the vicinity of the hive by young bees to acquaint them with hive location; sometimes mistaken for robbing or swarming preparations.

Propolis = Plant resins [collected](#), mixed with enzymes from bee saliva and used to fill in small spaces inside the hive and to coat and sterilize everything in the hive. It has antimicrobial properties.

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

Queen cell = A special elongated cell resembling a peanut shell in which the queen is reared; usually over an inch in length, it hangs vertically from the comb.

Queen cup = A cup-shaped cell hanging 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 zinc (or any combination thereof) having openings of .163 to .164 inch, 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 that all is well.

Raw honey = Honey that has not been finely filtered or heated.

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

Robbing = The act of bees stealing honey/nectar from the other colonies; also applied to bees cleaning out wet supers or cappings left uncovered by beekeepers and sometimes used to describe the beekeeper removing honey from the hive.

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 screen (usually #8 hardware cloth) for the bottom to allow ventilation and to allow Varroa mites to fall through. In Europe this is called an Open Mesh Floor.

Scout bees = Worker bees searching for a new source of pollen, nectar, propolis, water, or a new home for a swarm of bees.

Shallow = A box that is 5 11/16 or 5 3/4" deep with frames that are 5 1/2" deep.

Skep = A beehive without moveable combs, usually made of twisted straw in the form of a basket; its use is illegal in all the states in the U.S as the combs are not inspectable.

Small Hive Beetle = A recently imported pest whose larvae will destroy comb and ferment honey.

Sugar syrup = [Feed for bees](#), containing sucrose or table (cane or beet) sugar and hot water in various ratios. Usually 1:1 in the spring and 2:1 in the fall.

Sugar roll test = A test for Varroa mites that involves rolling a cupful of bees in powdered sugar and counting the number of mites dislodged. This was invented as a non-lethal alternative to an alcohol wash or an ether roll.

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 = Rearing a new queen to replace the mother queen in the same hive; shortly after the daughter queen begins to lay eggs, the mother queen often disappears.

Telescopic cover = A cover with a rim that hangs down all the way around it usually used with a inner cover under it.

Top supering = The act of placing honey supers on TOP of the top super of a colony in expectation of a honey flow as opposed to putting it under all the other supers, and directly on top of the brood box, which would be BOTTOM supering..

Tracheal Mites = A mite that infests the trachea of the honey bee. Resistance to tracheal mites is easily bred for.

Uncapping tank = A container over which frames of honey are uncapped; usually strains out the honey which is then collected.

Virgin queen = An unmated queen bee.

Winter cluster = A tight ball of bees within the hive to generate heat; forms when outside temperature falls below 50 degrees F.

Worker bees = Infertile female bee whose reproductive organs are only partially developed, responsible for carrying out all the routine of the colony.

Worker comb = Comb measuring between 4.4mm and 5.4mm, in which workers are reared and honey and pollen are stored.

Worker Queen aka laying workers = Worker bees which lay eggs in a colony hopelessly queenless; such eggs are not fertilized,