



Brown County Beekeepers Beginning Beekeeping Equipment and Bee Recommendation Guide Jan 2020

Brown County Beekeeping Association equipment recommendations for first time beekeepers.

The list of boxes, frames and foundation is for one hive. If you want two hives, you will need to double the numbers.

Hive Type: Langstroth. We recommend this because it is the most popular and you'll find lots of other beekeepers with the same equipment to help answer your questions.

Hives come in standard, select or premium wood or plastic. Prices are dependent on what you order

Hive and Frames Assembled or Unassembled: Your call. Assembled costs more, but you don't have to deal with doing the assembly. However, if you are handy and want to save a few bucks, unassembled is a fine choice.

Hive Exterior: Your call. Your hive exterior should be primed and painted. Buy them pre-painted or you paint them, your choice. Traditional color is white but any color is fine.

Hive Configuration: We recommend the standard configuration, however, you need to consider how much weight you will be able to lift.

Standard - 2 Deep brood boxes are standard; however with a full deep box potentially weighing up to 70+ pounds Some beekeepers prefer a lighter option noted below.

- 2 each - 10 frame, **deep** 9 5/8 hive bodies (referred to as deeps or brood boxes)
- 20 each - **deep** frames with wax coated plastic foundation
- 2 each - 10 frame, **medium** hive bodies (referred to as mediums or honey supers)
- 20 each **medium** 6 5/8 frames with wax coated black plastic foundation
- 1 Top Telescoping Cover
- 1 Inner Cover
- 1 Bottom Board – We recommend a solid bottom board. Some like a screened bottom board
- 1 Entrance Reducer

Lighter - For this option use 3 medium boxes for brood boxes instead of 2 deeps. Most nuc packages of bees are with deep frames and if you select this option you will not be able to purchase nuc's when you buy bees.

- 5 each - 10 frame, **medium** hive bodies (referred to as deeps or brood boxes)
- 50 each - **medium** frames with wax coated black plastic foundation
- 1 Top Telescoping Cover
- 1 Inner Cover
- 1 Bottom Board – We recommend a solid bottom board. Some like a screened bottom board
- 1 Entrance Reducer

Beekeeper Equipment

- **Bee Suit with Veil** - Minimum required is a veil. We recommend getting an integrated hood and jacket or overalls, depending on your level of comfort around bees.
- **Gloves** - We suggest getting gloves designed for beekeeping.
- **Hive Tool** - Only a few choices. We recommend a Steel J hook beehive tool, 10.5 inches long for lifting frames and scraping.
- **Smoker** - Only a few choices. We recommend a Stainless Steel Hive Smoker with Heat Shield, approximately 11 inches. Don't forget you will need to buy smoker fuel or provide your own as well as matches or some way to light the smoker
- **Mite testing kit** - We recommend the Varroa Mite testing kit available from the Minnesota Bee Squad or you can make your own to save a few bucks.
<https://www.beelab.umn.edu/bee-squad/resources-beekeepers/varroa/mite-kit>

Optional Equipment (highly recommended)

- **Feeder equipment** - it will be necessary to feed your bees sugar water when you get started and during low nectar flow.
- **Mite Treatment** (i.e. Mite Away Formic Pro)
- **White table sugar** - to feed your bees
- **Bee Brush**
- **Queen Excluder**
- **If assembling boxes:**
 - Galvanized Wood Screws 2"
 - Having a square handy is good to ensure your boxes are square
- **If painting boxes**
 - Primer 1 -2 Quarts
 - Exterior Paint 1 – 2 Quarts

Optional:

- Hive Stand - Not necessary to buy. You just need to get the hive off the ground. i.e. 4 Cement Blocks or build a treated works
- Rags and bottle of Alcohol to sterilize tools / gloves if you have more than one hive
- Frame holder to go on outside of box
- Notebook and pen
- Boot bands
- Lighter for your smoker
- Fuel for your smoker
- EpiPen – Requires a prescription

BEES AND QUEEN

For each hive, you'll need either a three pound package of bees with a queen, or a Nuc which contains a queen. Nucs typically comprise four or five deep frames of bees. Our recommendation for new beekeepers is to purchase a Nuc. We have supplier lists available for reference.

Note, if you decide to use medium boxes for the brood chamber, you will not be able to use a nuc that is made up of deep frames. In that case you will need to start with a package of bees.

We recommend either Carniolan or Italian bees

