



## Brown County Beekeepers Beginning Beekeeping Equipment and Bee Recommendation Guide

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, double the numbers.

**Hive Type:** Langstroth. The most popular hive type and you'll find lots of other beekeepers with the same equipment to help answer your questions. Hive wood comes in standard, select or premium and even plastic. Cost is dependent on what you order.

**Hive and Frames** (assembled or unassembled): You can purchase the hive bodies and frames either assembled or unassembled. Assembled equipment 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:** The hive exterior should be primed and painted. Buy them pre-painted or you can paint them. 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 Configuration** - 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** 6 5/8 hive bodies (referred to as mediums or honey supers)
- 20 each **medium** 6 5/8 frames with wax coated black plastic foundation
- 1 - Telescoping Top Cover
- 1 - Inner Cover
- 1 - Solid Bottom Board
- 1 - Entrance Reducer

**Lighter Configuration** - 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 (3 for brood boxes and 2 for honey supers)
- 50 each - **medium** frames with wax coated black plastic foundation
- 1 - Telescoping Top Cover
- 1 - Inner Cover
- 1 - Bottom Board – We recommend a solid 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. Our preference is a jacket with a hood.
- **Gloves** - We suggest getting gloves designed for beekeeping. Vented sleeve gloves are cooler but some beekeepers report getting stung through the venting.
- **Hive Tool** - 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. We use pine needles, pine cones, paper and burlap for fuel. You can also purchase smoker fuel.
- **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 (highly recommended) Equipment**

- **Entrance Reducer**
- **Feeding Equipment** - it will be necessary to feed your bees sugar water when you get started and during low nectar flow. We recommend a 4 jar feeder (assembled) and four caps. You will need four mason jars as well.
- **Mite Treatment** (i.e. Formic Pro)
- **White table sugar** - to feed your bees
- **Bee Brush**
- **Queen Excluder**

#### **Optional:**

- Hive Stand - Not necessary to buy. You just need to get the hive off the ground. i.e. 4 Cement Blocks or build
- 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
- EpiPen – If you are allergic to bee stings, 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

