

*honey bees and beekeeping*

## Beekeeping Terms

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# BEEKEEPING TERMS

**In order for you to understand Beekeeping, you should familiarize yourself with the terms listed below. These terms can be used to help you research the various aspects of your beekeeping enterprise.**

**American foulbrood (AFB)** — a highly contagious disease of bee brood, known for the distinctive foul odor it produces

**apiary** — a location for bee hives

**apiarist** — a person who is employed as a beekeeper or to aid beekeeping activities of others

**apiculturist** — a person with formal training in the study of bees, sometimes including bee species other than honey bees

**bait hive** — a hive left without bees in the hope that a swarm of bees will find it and move in, so that the beekeeper can obtain a new colony or catch a swarm leaving from one of the hives in the beekeeper's apiary

**bee brush** — a brush with long bristles, used to remove bees from honey frames and other equipment

**bee space** — a distance of 3/8 inch which the bees naturally maintain between adjacent combs

**bottom bar** — the bottom piece of a frame, usually wooden

**bottom board** — the bottom part of a hive, which supports the rest of the hive

**burr comb** — comb built not in the frames but between frames or between frames and the inner wall of a hive body, usually because the frames are too far apart

**chalkbrood disease** — a very common fungal disease of bee brood, which turns the brood to a chalk-like white or gray

**colony** — the bees which live together in a cohesive society, including adult bees and brood but not necessarily including the hive they inhabit

**Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD)** — a condition in which many adult bees suddenly disappear from the hive, for no obvious reason, but now apparently caused by a combination of mites and other factors

**comb** — the wax structure made of many hexagonal cells in a hive, which the bees use for storing honey and pollen, and for rearing brood

**drawing out comb** — the process by which bees construct their comb by adding wax and forming hexagonal cells on the foundation

**drifting** — the movement of bees from their own hive to another hive nearby, usually because they aren't orienting to their own hive very well

**extract** — to spin honey frames rapidly so that the honey is thrown out of them, prior to the filtering and

bottling of the honey

**extractor** — a large cylindrical device used to extract honey from frames by spinning them rapidly, working much like a centrifuge

**European foulbrood (EFB)** — a disease of bee brood caused by bacteria

**feral bees** — bees not kept by a beekeeper but living without management, for example in a hollow tree

**foundation** — thin sheets of beeswax embossed with a hexagon pattern, used for guiding the bees' construction of wax comb in a frame 99

**frame** — a hive part which holds the comb and can be removed from the hive for examination or honey extraction

**gum hives** — hives kept by beekeepers in hollow logs or other non-standard equipment; also called "bee gums"

**hive** — the shelter used by bees, such as a wooden box or hollow tree; may include the bees

**hive beetle** — the small hive beetle, a recently introduced pest of bee hives

**hive bodies** — the wooden boxes used as part of the hive

**hiving bees** — putting a swarm or package of bees into a hive

**honey bound** — a hive condition in which so much honey has been stored by the bees, they do not have room to store more honey or rear brood

**honeydew** — a liquid similar to honey but made by bees from the secretions of homopterous insects like aphids, instead of from flower nectar

**inner cover** — the cover to a hive which rests directly over the hive bodies larva (larvae, plural) —the worm-like immature form of a bee

**larva** (larvae, plural) — the worm-shaped immature form of the bee, which hatches from the egg

**laying worker** — worker bees that lay eggs, a problem in colonies that have been queenless for a long time

**mite** — a small arthropod with eight legs; not an insect but closely related to ticks and spiders (see "tracheal mite" and "Varroa mite")

**nectar** — the sweet liquid produced by flowers and collected by bees, and then made into honey by the bees

**nosema disease**(pronounced "no-SEE-ma") — a disease of adult bees common in winter and spring. Nosema apis (A-pis) has been known for over a century. A new type, Nosema ceranae (sir-AH-nee) was discovered a few years ago.

**nuc** (pronounced "nuke", short for nucleus) —a very small hive, usually for sustaining queen bees as they mature and mate or as hive that will eventually grow to full strength **observation hive** — a small hive with transparent sides, usually kept indoors for close viewing of bee activities

**outer cover** — the cover to a hive that fits over the inner cover and the rest of the hive; the type which overlaps the hive body below it is called a telescoping cover

**package bees** — a colony of bees including the queen, in a screened box purchased from a commercial producer

**pheromone** (pronounced "FER-o-mone") — a chemical used by an animal to communicate with one of its own kind; very important to honey bees and other social insects

**pollen bound** — a hive condition in which so much pollen has been stored in the brood nest by the bees, they do not have room for rearing brood

**propolis** (pronounced "PRO-po-lis") — a sticky substance made by bees to fill in cracks and openings in their hive, and as an antibiotic to protect the bees from diseases

**pupa** (pronounced PYU-pah) (pupae, plural, pronounced Pyu-pee) — the immature form of a bee as it transforms from a larva to an adult rack —a local term for frame

**robber bees** — bees that are stealing honey from another hive robbing the bees —removing honey from a hive for harvest

**royal jelly** — a nutritious food that worker bees secrete and place in queen cells to feed larvae which will become queens

**rustic hives** — hives kept by beekeepers in hollow logs or other non-standard equipment; also called “gum hives” or “bee gums”

**sacbrood disease** — a disease of bee larvae that causes the larva to die and then resemble a sack of liquid; uncommon in Kentucky

**scattered brood** — an irregular brood pattern (see “shot brood”)

**shot brood** — an irregular pattern of brood on a comb that shows many empty cells, like the pattern made by a shotgun on a target; caused by a queen with fertility problems or by laying workers stand -a local term for hive

**super** — one of the upper hive bodies, which contains the honey frames 101

**supersedure** — the process in which the original queen is gradually replaced by one of her daughters, usually because she is old or diseased

**swarm** — a colony of bees not in a hive which has not yet found a place to live; also, the bees purchased in a package

**swarming** — the process in which a colony naturally divides into two or more colonies

**top bar** — the top piece of a frame, usually wooden

**tracheal** (pronounced “TRAY-kee-al”) mite — a highly destructive microscopic mite that parasitizes bees

**varroa** (pronounced “va-RO-ah”) mite — a highly destructive external mite that parasitizes bees

**wax moth** — a moth that destroys comb by eating it; also called “wax worm” or “weevil” (although it is not a true worm or weevil)

**wax worm** — see wax moth

**weevil** — see wax moth

**wild bees** — either honey bees not kept by a beekeeper (see “feral bees”), or other species of bees such as bumblebees or orchard bees

**yard** — a location for bee hives; same as apiary

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