

Beekeeping dos and don'ts

Do's

1. Provide water nearby so the bees spend more time to collect nectar and less time for water
2. Keep bees where there is lots of forage available. Try to locate hives near nectar Sources.
3. Provide warm, dry and clean hive to your bees.
4. Examine the colony weekly and clean the bottom board on regularly intervals.
5. Maximize colony populations before the main nectar flows.
6. Re-queening to be done at every two years.
7. Use Queen Excluder to keep the queen out of the super.
8. Provide plenty of space for bees to store their nectar before the nectar flows start. This will help control swarming, and encourage foraging.
9. Honey should be extracted from sealed combs. Keep your honey handling equipment clean and hygiene, should be of stainless steel.
10. Protect your stored combs from the wax moth by using "Para dichlorobenzene".
11. Control diseases and parasites regularly. Every beekeeper should get to know his bees and the diseases and parasites that can adversely affect bees.
12. Take division of colony during swarming season.
13. Unite the weak colony during draught period.
14. Provide gunny bags to hives during the heavy winter season.

Don'ts

1. Don't start with one colony, hence start with at least two.
2. Don't keep bee colony without stand.
3. While opening the colony do not use any type of cosmetics.
4. Don't feed sugar water too frequently.
5. Avoid locating your hives near highways and heavy traffic roads. It causes nascence to bees and honey contaminated with pollutants.
6. Should not migrate hives when they are full of honey. It damages your bees.
7. Don't use artificial comb foundation sheet in the hive.
8. Don't heat honey more than 67 degrees Celsius. It sacrilege to ruin the product of the bees.
9. Don't add empty super without frames.
10. Don't harvest honey from unsealed combs/ brood chambers.
11. Don't keep hives open for extended period of time to avoid robbing.
12. Don't medicate colonies during honey flow.
13. Don't feed bees in plastic containers.
14. Never cover top of the hive with plastic sheet.
