



Spring Preparations to consider

As money is short after Christmas some things may have to be paused for a while but considered.

- 1. What is your focus**
- 2. Make plans for the upcoming year**
- 3. Evaluate your existing equipment repair, paint or replace**
- 4. Purchasing replacement or needed equipment or Build equipment**
- 5. Equipment preparation, Investigate hive preparation materials (paint or stain)**
- 6. Evaluate information on bee treatment, Order treatments in relationship to number of hives**
- 7. Prepare for all feeding methods**
- 8. Locate out yards**
- 9. Survey crops grown within 5 miles of your yard**
- 10. Consider local and relationship to water, wind and humans**

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Do you want to make **HONEY**?

Do you want to expand your **BEE YARD**?

Are you replacing **LOST COLONIES**?

Do you just want bees for **POLLINATION**?

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Establish a feeding schedule including winter preparations.

Locate Queens if needed.

Plan a treatment schedule.

Plan for honey super addition.

Plan for honey harvest.

Group buy jars to get a better price.

Locate and schedule the use of an extractor.

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Hives that are getting old need some TLC now and then.

A few nails or screws may get you another years use.

Some you can cut the bad off and make a winter super from a hive body.

A hive body or medium super may absorb treatments and should not be used for honey gathering.

Some have too many holes and gap. But that is what duct tape is made for. Unless they look like the Titanic.

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Purchasing replacement or needed equipment.

Places to purchase equipment.

Brushy Mountain Bee Farm

610 Bethany Church Road
Moravian Falls, NC 28654
1-336-921-3640

Miller Bee Supply

496 Yellow Banks Road
North Wilkesboro, NC 28659
Phone 336-670-2249

Dandelion Bee Supply

737 Irish Potato Road
Concord, NC 28025
704-796-2972

Fort Dobbs Hardware

406 Turnersburg Hwy
Statesville, NC 28625-2799
704-872-2300

Mann Lake

Mann Lake Ltd.
501 S. 1st St.
Hackensack, Minnesota 56452
Phone Number: 1-800-880-7694

Dadant & Sons Inc

820 Tightsqueeze Industrial Road
P.O. Box 1219
Chatham, VA 24531-1219
1-800-220-8325
Phone: 434-432-8461

Walter T. Kelley Company

PO Box 240
807 West Main Street
Clarkson, KY 42726
Toll-Free: (800) 233-2899
Local: (270) 242-2012

BETTERBEE

8 Meader Road
Greenwich, NY 12834
1-800-632-3379

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Different finishes for different applications or preferences.

Standard white enamel for new boxes or latex base paint.

Some stains or waterproof finishes work well for Garden Hives.

Some latex paints can be applied in as low as 50 degrees.

This can work well when wanting to paint occupied hive bodies.

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There are many options here.

Internet

Word of mouth

Attend bee schools

Attend bee association meetings.

Research costs and ease of application of product.

Schedule application prior to honey flow.

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Feeding options can be influenced by the purpose for feeding.

Spring feeding

1. For brood growth
2. For wax pulling
3. For yard expansion

The type of feeders available, some are better than others for different reasons for feeding.

- 1. Hive top feeders are good if you cannot work your hives every few days.**
- 2. Bag feeders are a quick fix.**
- 3. Bucket feeders are good for early spring feeding and for drawing wax without causing the frames to become honey bound hindering the queen from laying eggs.**
- 4. Entrance feeders are okay for beginners but too limited and always a danger of getting stung trying to change the bottle.**
- 5. Jar top feeders work well but can offer the same danger if you do not screen the hole.**

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- 1. Find farmers or landowners willing to let you put bees.**
- 2. Find farmers who if they have livestock keep their fences up.**
- 3. Find a place that is out of view but secure to avoid thief.**
- 4. Look for cutover land that will offer at least 5 or more years of use before the trees grow too tall.**
- 5. Work with the farmer or landowner if they require any type of spraying.**

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Crops may offer good forage for the bees and a great promise for honey production.

Some crops can effect your bees in a negative way. Others are very beneficial.

1. GMO has been in question for a while.
2. Canola can be a great thing for drawing wax but can requires a lot of attention and the honey crystalizes quickly.
3. Blooming outgrowth around fields offer a lot of natural forage.
4. Specialized Honey production such as Sourwood requires a special location and usually a dual nectar flow.

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Placement of bees can be critical.

Facing southeast is said to be best.

Look for a good windbreak.

Place facing a good opening in front.

Give yourself enough room to drive behind the hives.

**Keep hives about 16 inches off the ground
to keep out critters as much as possible.**

This helps with ground dampness.

Keep on high ground away from creeks or running water.

In high risk areas for BEARS they will follow a creek or river.

Until next time.

Any questions.

