

Regenerate Wheat Ridge

Pollinators & BEE-Yond!

In partnership with:



Pollinators

- More than 100,000 different animal species play roles in pollinating the flowering plants on this planet.
- 35 % of food crops derive at least some benefit from pollinators
- The native pollinators in Colorado include: native bees, butterflies, moths, wasps, beetles, flies, and hummingbirds.

Types of Pollinators

Colorado Pollinators: Birds

- Hummingbirds are native pollinators in Colorado.
- Eleven species of hummingbirds in Colorado.

Colorado Pollinators: Butterflies & Moths

- 289 species of butterflies and moths in Jefferson County.

Colorado Pollinators: Native bees

- The greatest diversity of bee species is found in the dry areas of the world.
- There are over 4000 bees in North America. Colorado hosts 950 species of native bees; the 5th most of any state.
- Native bees have small nests in twigs, cavities, or underground.
- The vast majority of native bees are solitary.

Colorado Pollinators: Other insects

- Other native pollinators that are insects include: wasps, beetles, flies.
- Wasps are important pollinators, but are less efficient than bees as they have less body hairs to collect pollen.
- Beetles rely on their sense of smell to find food.
- Many flies that are pollinators mimic bee coloration.

Beekeeping Basics

Minimum Equipment Needed:

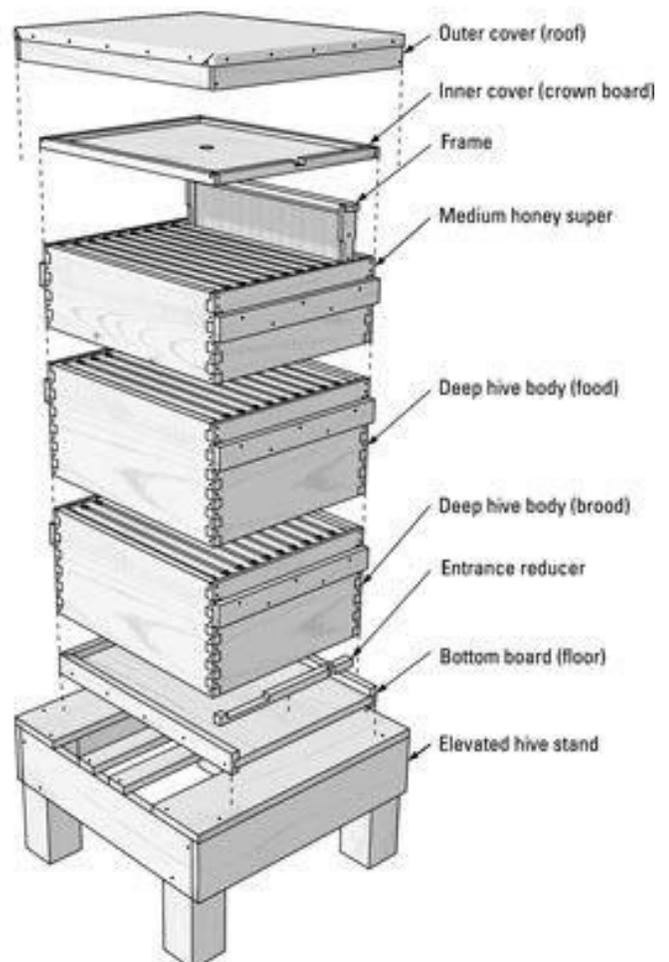
- 2 standard deep hive boxes, inner & outer cover, screened bottom board, frames
- 2 medium or shallow hive boxes with frames
- Feeding system for your bees
- Entrance reducer
- Mouse guard
- Queen excluder
- Smoker (though not necessary)
- Bee jacket w/veil
- Gloves
- A favorite book and/or mentor
- Hive Tool

CONSIDER THIS

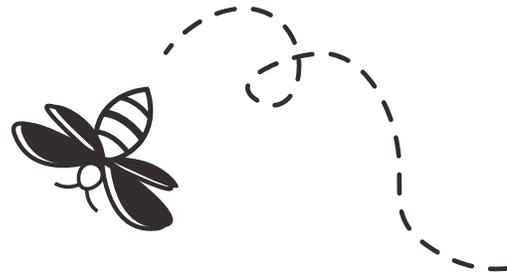
Before you decide to begin beekeeping consider your goals, your time commitment, and your finances.

- Why do you want to keep bees?
- Do you have time for 1 – 10 hours a week for inspections, maintenance, honey harvest, and research?
- Do you understand some of the issues in beekeeping?
- Do you have a good location for keeping a hive?
- Initial beekeeping expenses are approximately \$600 –\$1000 for equipment and bees, plus there are additional annual expenses.

LANGSTROTH HIVE



Resources



Select Resources:

- The Beekeeper's Handbook by A. Sammataro & A. Avitabile
- Queenspotting by H. Kearney
- The Bees in Your Backyard by J.S. Wilson & O.M. Carril

Select Web links:

- Bee Informed Partnership - <https://beeinformed.org/>
- Honeybee Health Coalition - <https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/>
- Honey Bee Suite - <https://www.honeybeesuite.com/>
- Colorado Beekeepers Association - <https://coloradobeekeepers.org/>
- Tools for Varroa Management -
https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/wpcontent/uploads/2018/06/HBH-C-Guide_Varroa_Interactive_7thEdition_June2018.pdf
- Webinar series- <https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/bees-pollinators/at-home-beekeeping-series/>