



What We'll Cover

- · Tiny bit of bee history
- Wasps v Bees
- All of our other bees v. honeybees
- Anatomy of the honeybee
- 3 castes of bees
- Bee math
- · Pheromones rule







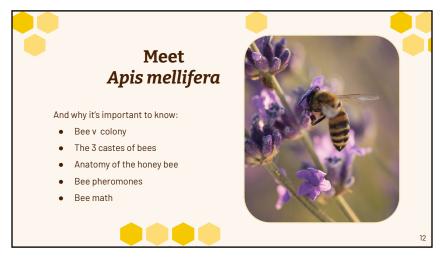


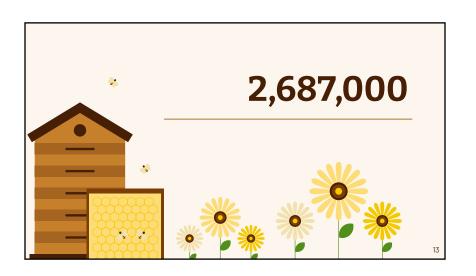
Stingless Bees in Peru: Melipona sp.

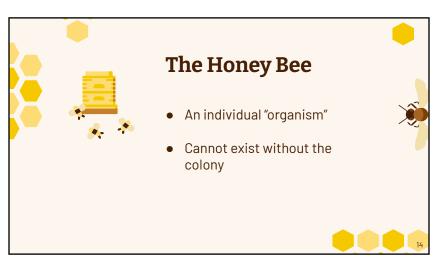
Man has been harvesting honey for quite a long time

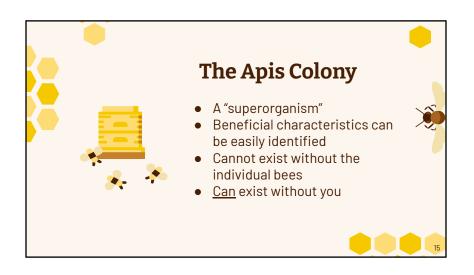
Credit: https://youtu.be/Qkqy_U4DKAc?si=oe2LERmvZ7XDTnyJ













Three "Castes" of Honey Bees



WORKER

- Vast majority in the colony
- Recall the definition of "EuSocial" insects
- Nurse Bees & Foragers
- Colony's defenders
- Live 6 weeks in summer & a few months in winter



QUEEN

- Two Functions
 - Lay viable eggs
 Make chemicals to
- maintain colony cohesion
- 1 per colony, usually
- Live 2+ years



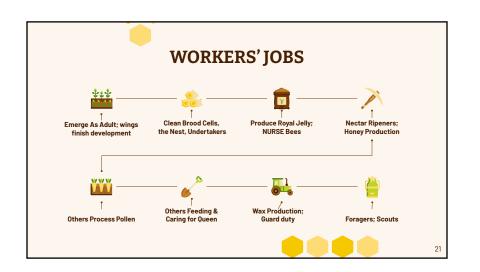
DRONES

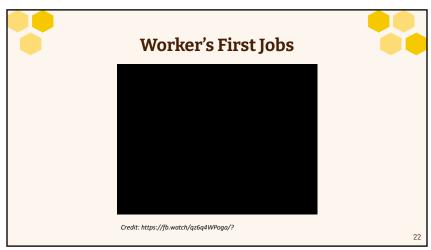
- One function = to mate with virgin queens
- Haploid, not diploid
- Feed on pollen in the hive & beg workers for food
- Fly each afternoon to DCAs
- Complete one task, then die

	BEE 1			
	DRONE	WORKER	QUEEN	
EGG	3	3	3	
LARVA	7	6	5.5	
(capped)	(8)	(6)	(6)	
PUPA	14	12	7.5	
ADULT	24	21	16	•
				-







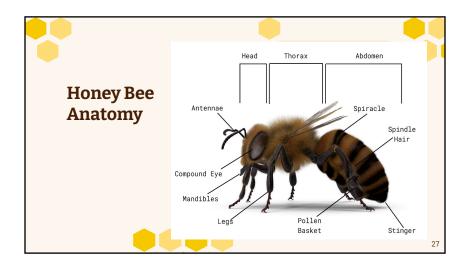




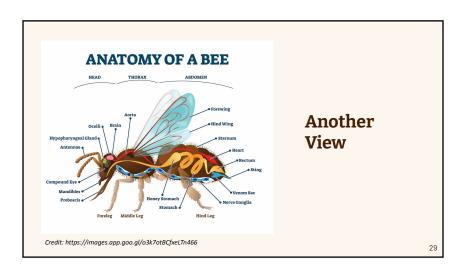


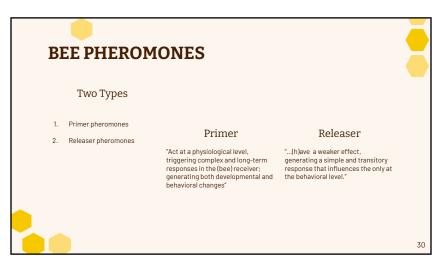


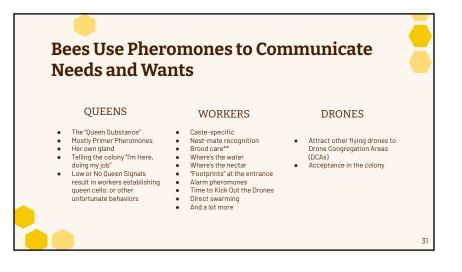


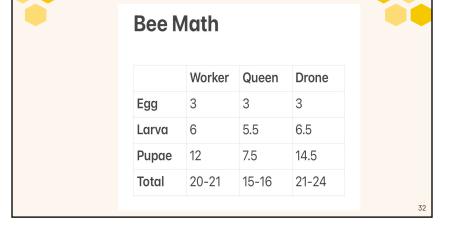


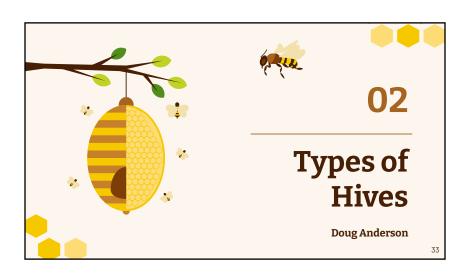


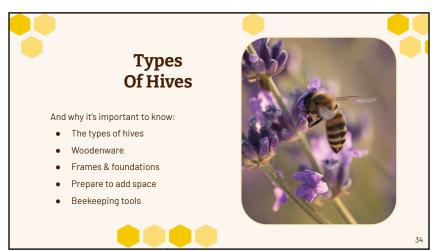












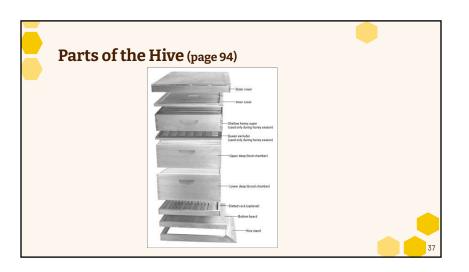
Types of Hives

- Langstroth (page 68)
 - Invented 1852 by Reverend Lorenzo Langstroth
 - $_{\circ}$ $\,$ Invention of "Bee Space" makes it possible
- Kenyan Top Bar Hive (page 70)
- Apimaye Insulated Hive (page 73)
- The Flow Hive (page 75)
- Warré (People's) Hive (page 78)
- Five-Frame Nuc Hive (page 81)
- Observation Hive (page 83)

Langstroth Hive

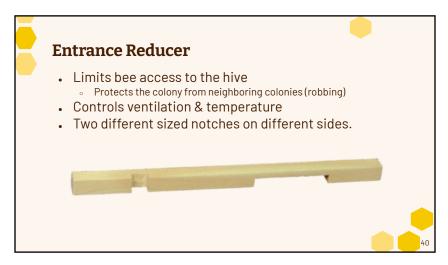
- Reverend Lorenzo L. Langstroth (1810-1895)
- Discovery of "bee space" allowed interchangeable parts
- Readily available from any supply vendor
- Removable frames allow easy inspections
- Available in 8-frame & 10-frame configurations in both deep and medium

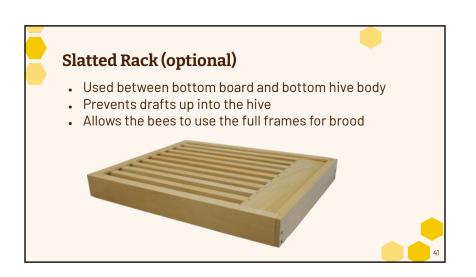


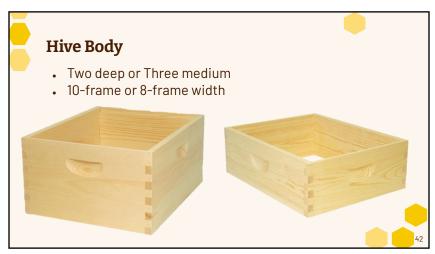


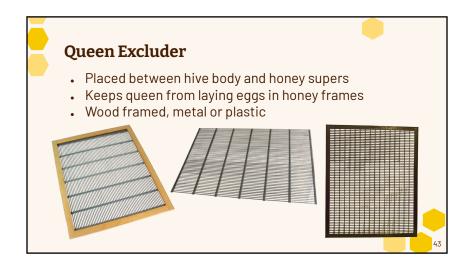


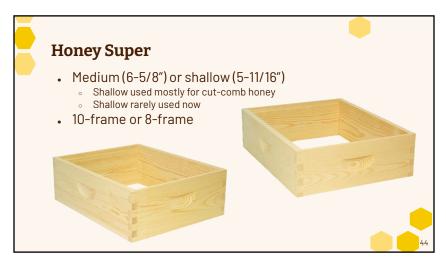


























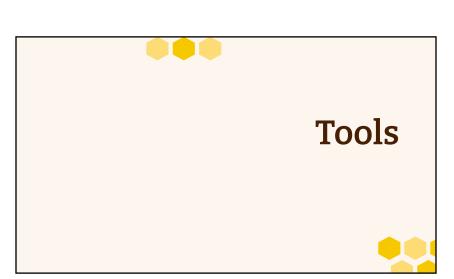


Frame and Foundation Assembly

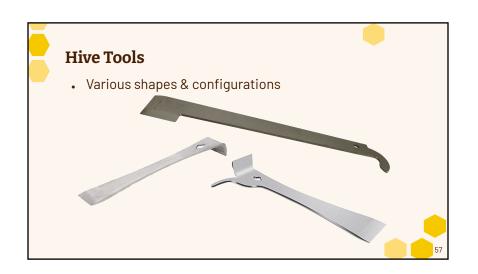
- 4 Parts
 - Top bar
 - Bottom bar
 - Two side bars
- Can use 18-gauge brads or staples
 - 1-1/4" x ½" crown staples
- Use glue in joints to increase strength
 - Titebond III glue

Painting

- Use at least two coats of good quality outdoor latex or oil-based paint
- Lighter colors keep hive cooler during summer
- Can stain with outdoor grade polyurethane
- Do NOT paint:
 - Inner cover
 - Frames
 - o Inside surfaces of hive bodies, supers and wooden hive-top feeders
 - Queen excluder













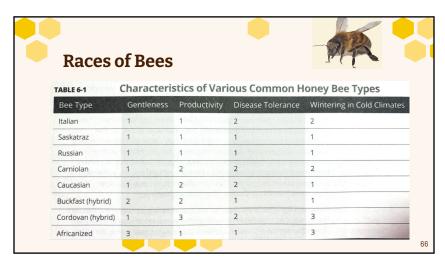


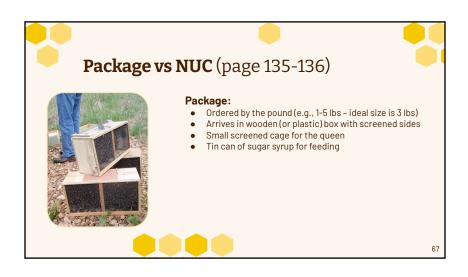




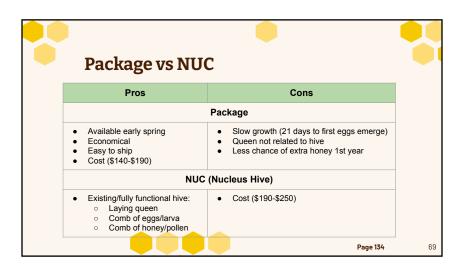












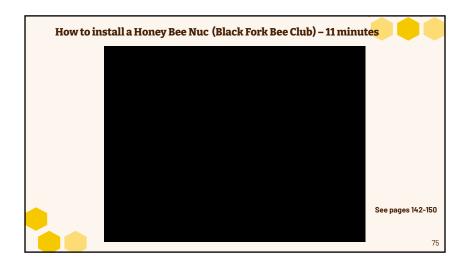








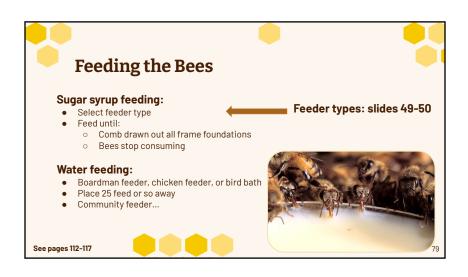






















Opening Hive

- Visiting hours: 10:00 to 5:00
 - → Sunny
 - → Avoid cold; less than 50 degrees
 - → Avoid rainy / windy weather
- Personal hygiene:
 - → Avoid after working out
 - → Avoid perfume; scents
- Safety:
 - → Wear veil
 - → Jacket
 - → Jumpsuit
 - → Gloves



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Smoker is your friend: Purpose

- Change bees behavior
- Theory: smoke masks the "alarm" pheromones
- Minimizes defensive action



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Smoker is your friend: Lighting

- Seeking thick, cool smoke
- Matchstick-size kindling to pinky-size twigs
- Once crackling, add burlap, blue jeans or smoker pellets
- Top with dry leaves or pine needles
- No synthetic or toxic materials



How to light your smoker (Beekeeping For Dummies)

Credit:
https://youtu.be/Mil55q7Nr50

Inspection: Opening the hive

- 1. A few puffs from the smoker at entrance
- Lift hive cover → blow a few puffs → close for 20 seconds
- 3. Remove top cover and inner cover

Credit: https://youtu.be/uLGyziDuqXA



How to open your beehive (Beekeeping For Dummies)

Inspection: Opening the hive

- 4. Remove first frame: provides needed open space inside the hive
- 5. **Technique:** Use both hands; avoid rolling bees; consider a frame rack; be extra careful with frames without foundation
- 6. **Greatest Compliment:** You have a calculated and deliberate approach



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Inspection (continued)

- Inspect both sides of frame: Look for positive activity and problem issues
- 8. Inspect as many frames as needed to satisfy your purpose: you don't always need to find the queen



Inspection (continued)

- 9. Return frames:
 - → Slow and deliberate
 - → Keep in the same order (advanced techniques later)
 - → Keep frames tight with each other
 - → Leave space for last frame, ensuring that it is no too tight
- 10. Repeat puffs of smoke, as necessary, to close hive
- 11. Replace inner cover and top cover

When to open hives

- First year beekeeper: every 7-10 days
 - Familiarity; learn personality
- More experienced beekeeper: 6-8 inspections a year
- **Downside of inspections**: chance of killing bees/queen; sets back productivity

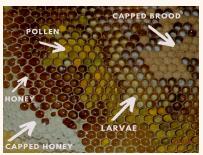
When to open hives

- First inspection: most guides recommend 7 days
 - If your colony comes with a queen in a separate cage, it is recommended that you check to see that she has been released after three days
 - Look for eggs and drawn comb



When to open hives (continued)

- Weeks 2-3: Look for larva and capped brood; evaluate your queen
- Weeks 4-8: Continue to monitor eggs, larva and capped brood; also note pollen and honey stores; watch for orientation flights
- Adding super 8:10 rule or 6:8 rule



Face hive

hive/entrance

Imprint of hive location

Young bees first flights

My experience is that orientation flights happen later in the afternoon

Dart up and down in front of

Some circling; circles widen

Orientation flights should not be confused with swarming



Credit: https://www.youtube.com/shorts/0uj1HSy2Ttk

Helpful Hints

- Remove burr comb
- Have a sharple during inspection
- Keep a journal

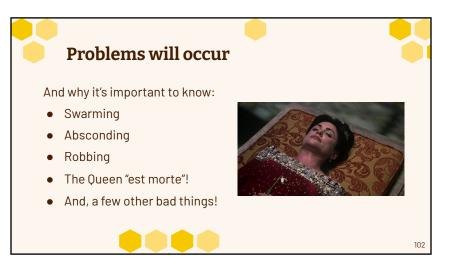


















Swarms

Swarming

- Queen & 50% of the bees leave the hive
- Gorge themselves on honey before leaving
- Chance of a honey harvest is slim
- Need to make a new queen
- If swarm late in season, may not be able to recover before winter

Swarms







Small Hive Beetles – Aethina tumida

Small Hive Beetle Damage

- Larvae
- Tunnel through comb
- Destroy cappings
- Defecate in honey
- Fermentation of honey
- Results
 - Honey discoloration, fermentation & frothing
- Leaking honey from comb
- Destruction of wax frames and cappings
- Absconding of bees

Small Hive Beetle Life Cycle

- Egg
 - Hatch in 2 to 3 days
 - Deposited as irregular masses in crevices and cavities
 - Approximately 2/3 size of Honey bee egg
- Larvae
 - White colored worms
 - o Grow to length of 10 to 11 mm
- Feed on honey and pollen
- Require 10 to 16 days of development

Small Hive Beetle Life Cycle

- Pupae
- Larvae leave hive to pupate in soil
- o Pupation require 3 to 4 weeks
- Adult
- o Reddish brown to black in color
- o 5 mm in length
- Live up to 6 months

Small Hive Beetle Control

- What can be done
- Monitor hives for beetle presence
- Maintain strong hives
- Maintain good sanitation during honey extraction
- Never store wet supers
- Maintain a Dry environment
- Move Hives away from tree lines



Small Hive Beetle Control

- Chemical
- Check-Mite+
- Gard-Star
- Physical traps
- Beetle Blasters
- Unscented dryer sheets









Fun Facts about Bees

Honey bees & 1622

30% of food consumed pollinated by bees

The Value of that work = \$16B in the US alone

So do bees sleep or not?

Honey Bee Health Coalition (add ".org") Save the Dates

10/25-27/2024

VIRGINIA STATE BLEKELPRES ASSOCIATION

MELTING 2024

The Virginia State Beekeepers Association puts on statewide meetings once a year. Join up to get the notices!

Keith Tignor is Virginia's State Apiarist. Find him at Keith.Tignor@vdacs.virginia.gov





Record-keeping

Prepare to keep records of what you find each time you inspect a hive. Important to have the data when you've got a question or issue.



VSBA

Join VSBA!

VirginiaBeekeepers.org



Use all the gear all the time, at least at first. (Bring your personal protection gear to

Get a Mentor

Through ERBA, you can

Someone with at least

some more experience can really help.

request a Mentor.



Enjoy!

the next session.) Church, 13 North Confederate St.



Beekeeping can be a most rewarding experience as a hobby or a vocation.

Resources

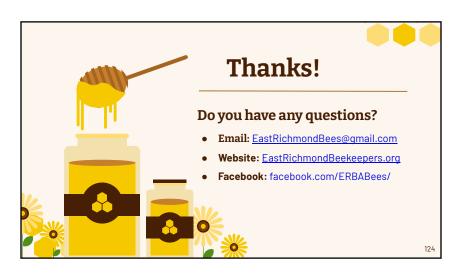
- Honey Bee Health Coalition
 - https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/
- Tools for Varroa Management document
- Located on your thumb drive
- Field Guide to Honey Bees and their Maladies.pdf
- Located on your thumb drive
- Bee Health App







What's Coming Up Next 3 beekeeping training sessions: • July 20 October 19 • February 22, 2025 Same location: Fairfield Middle School (Henrico Co. School) 5121 Nine Mile Road, Richmond





Thanks to our presenters!

Doug Anderson Chip Dahlstrom Sue Rowland Mark Smith Mike Woodward



"The right person to keep bees is someone who's interested in learning that magic."

Susan Cormier of British Columbia

