

Establish a honey bee hive

Overview

This standard covers the establishment of a honey bee hive. The aim will be to establish a strong healthy colony of bees for the production of honey. This standard is suitable for those involved in establishing honey bee hives.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. assess the risks associated with the activity to be carried out
2. wear suitable clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE)
3. identify an appropriate location for the honey bee hive
4. select, prepare, use and maintain beekeeping equipment safely

and correctly

5. select the appropriate type of hive
6. confirm that the hive is correctly assembled, in accordance with

requirements

7. position the hive on a suitable platform
8. acquire honey bees and a queen for the hive at the correct time
9. place the bees in the hive at the correct time, maintaining the

safety of yourself and others and the health and welfare of the bees

10. place the queen in the hive maintaining separation until the colony

has settled

11. maintain an ample supply of food until the worker bees establish a

honeycomb

12. monitor the hive for signs of pests, diseases and disorders and take appropriate action if they are detected

13. maintain communication with colleagues and others involved in,

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or affected by, the activity

14. maintain good hygiene practices and bio-security

15. carry out all work in accordance with relevant environmental
and

health and safety legislation, beekeeping legislation, risk

assessment requirements and codes of practice

16. maintain records of beekeeping activities

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. how to identify hazards and assess risks
2. the type of clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) suitable for beekeeping activities
3. the beekeeping equipment required and how to use it safely and correctly for beekeeping activities
4. how and where a honey bee hive should be sited and the factors that should be taken into account e.g. food source, risk to the public
5. the different types of hives and components and how they are assembled and used
6. the principles that govern the design of hives and frames e.g. the concept of bee space, and the main features of their construction
7. the different strains of honey bees and their characteristics
8. the different adult bees within the colony and their specific job
9. how to introduce the bees and queen to the hive in a way that minimises stress
10. the stages in the life cycle of a honey bee
11. the elementary anatomy and biology of a honey bee
12. how the bees' behaviour can help to regulate the environment within the colony
13. the communication methods used by bees

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14. the make up of a nucleus and how it can be used
 15. how plants and bees are mutually beneficial to each other
 16. elementary botany and foraging for bee farming
 17. the principles involved in feeding honey bees and why it is important that no honey boxes are in place when bees are being fed sugar syrup
 18. the nutritional value of honey to the honey bee colony
 19. the management needed to cope with changes in seasons, geographic locations, weather conditions, the timing of the flowering of forage plants and sources of undesirable nectar
 20. where to find information on pests, diseases and disorders affecting honey bee colonies, including which are notifiable, and the action to take if they are detected
 21. the potential impact of pests, diseases and disorders on bee health, the management of the colony and their economic effects
 22. the correct procedures to take in the event of an emergency
 23. the importance of maintaining communication with those involved
- in, or affected by, the activity
24. the importance of maintaining good hygiene practices and biosecurity and the methods for achieving these
 25. your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, beekeeping legislation and codes of practice
 26. the need for relevant insurance
 27. the role of professional organisations and associations

28. the records that need to be kept and the importance of completing them

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Glossary

Adult bees:

- worker
- drone
- queen

Beekeeping activities:

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use of a smoker

assembly of a hive

removal of hive parts (roof, crown board, suppers, brood combs)

collection of honey

packaging

food labelling

cleaning hive components

Beekeeping equipment:

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hive

smoker

fuel

personal protective equipment

hive tool

queen excluder

feeder

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Communication methods used by bees:

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food sharing

dancing

scenting

vibration

Emergency:

- unhealthy brood
- sting
- swarm

Hygiene practices:

- protective clothing
- hand washing
- personal illness
- cuts and wounds

Pests, diseases and disorders:

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- small hive beetle
- tropilaelaps
- varroa mite
- wax moth
- tracheal mites
- Asian hornet
- nosema
- varroosis
- American foul brood
- European foul brood
- sac brood
- bald brood
- drone brood
- chalk brood
- amoeba
- starved colony
- chilled or overheated colony
- plant poisoning
- pesticide poisoning

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