

# Beekeeping for Beginners

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**The following syllabus is intended to provide general guidelines and is subject to change. Due to the nature of the topics there will be some overlap between the units.**

## Quarter 1

### **Unit 1 Beekeeping Basics – Lecture - December (3 hours)**

History of beekeeping

Honey Bee Biology

Who can keep honeybees?

Components of a beehive

    Woodenware

    Frames and foundation

    Feeders

Protective clothing and equipment

Tools

Q&A

### **Unit 2 Care and Feeding of Honeybees –Lecture - January (3 hours)**

Spring and winter feeding - natural cycles of plenty and dearth

Parasites, diseases, disorders and dealing with them

Buying Bees - By the pound? Or would you prefer a 'nuc'?

Q&A

### **Unit 3 ABC's of Assembling a Beehive - Workshop - February (3 hours)**

You may have decided to get some of your hive parts in 'kit' form.

Hive bodies - glue and nails

Frames and foundation

Other components

Paint

How to setup your hive

Q&A

## Quarter 2

### **Unit 4 Spring Hive Management – Beeyard - March (2 hours)**

**\*Students will need to have a protective veil and gloves\***

In this outdoor lab we will open a hive and examine the inner workings of a living honey bee colony.

Inspecting a hive

Brood buildup

Identifying:

Larvae

Capped brood

Pollen - 'bee bread'

Nectar

Capped Honey

Workers, drones and a queen

Swarm queen cells

Why is swarm management so important?

Making beehive 'splits'

### **Unit 5 Installing Bees/Spring Buildup –Beeyard - April (2 hours)**

**\*Students will need to have a protective veil and gloves\***

We will install a package of bees into a new hive.

Follow-up inspection of established hives from previous unit

This is spring buildup!

### **Unit 6 Harvesting Honey –Workshop - May (2 hours)**

Take capped honey frames from a 'super', remove the cappings and extract the honey.

Filter and bottle the product

Reliquifying granulated honey

## Quarter 3

### **Unit 7 Getting Ready for Winter – Beeyard - August (2 hours)**

**\*Students will need to have a protective veil and gloves\***

We will perform Varroa mite counts and apply a couple of treatments.

Other end of season inspections

Winter feeding