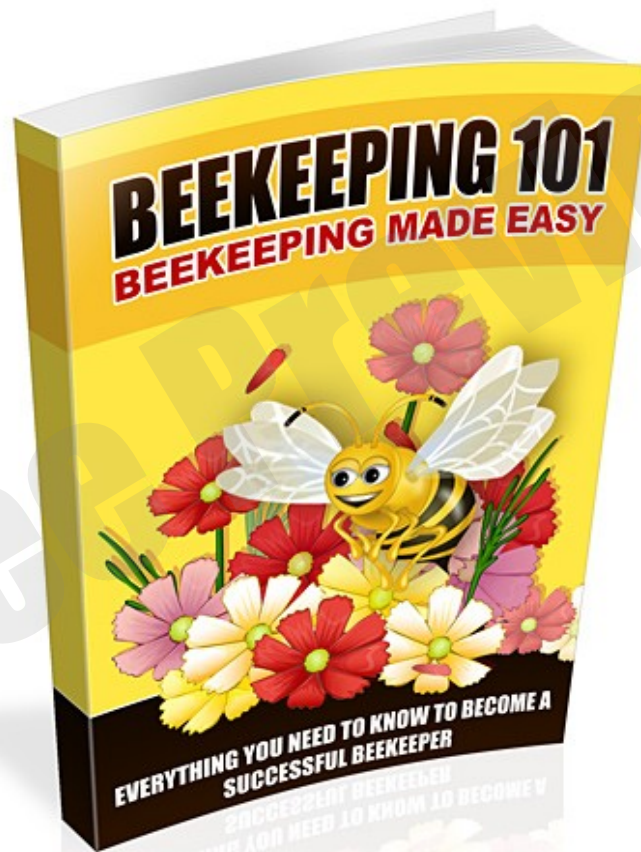


2012

# Beekeeping101

Everything You Need to Know  
to Become a Successful Beekeeper



BY NICKWINTERS  
[HTTP://WWW.DISCOVERBEEKEEPING.COM](http://www.discoverbeekeeping.com)

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## About the Author and This Beekeeping Guide



Hi there! My name is Nick Winters. I live in the US where I am a beekeeper and a woodworker...and the author of this book!

I wrote this book because I wanted to see more people just like you **find the joy** of keeping and caring for their own beehive and raising bees in their backyard.

### **There is nothing better than honey from your own beehive!**

In this Beekeeping Guide, I am going to show you how to care for your bees as well as setting up and maintaining your bee yard. I will take you step by step through the whole process.

I will show you all the tips and tricks I discovered while I was learning to keep bees, I have done all the hard work, so you don't have to!

Best wishes with your new beehive!

**Nick Winters**



**“The bee is more honored than other animals, not because she labors, but because she labors for others”**

**- Saint John Chrysostom**

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## To Bee or not to Bee?

Beekeeping is not just a hobby where you can just set up a few hives, then let the bees do whatever it is bees do best, popping your head in now and then to be entertained by their hive behavior. It takes time, money and effort-- which can pay off in honey, and in keeping you fascinated!

Before you undertake beekeeping, there are three basic questions you should ask yourself:

- Do you want to pollinate the plants on your property?
- Do you want to observe bee behavior?
- Do you want to harvest honey for your family to enjoy or sell?

Chances are, if you answered yes to any or all of the above questions, beekeeping is for you!

Now here are few more questions to ask yourself to ascertain whether you have what it takes to be a successful beekeeper. Do you have the willingness to:

- Spend at least \$300 to get started?
- Spend time assembling hive boxes?
- Invest in modest recurring costs, such as medication and repairs?
- Invest ample time tending to hives, making repairs, and updating your inspection log?
- Educate and cooperate with your neighbors?
- Get stung?





If you answered yes to these questions, you will definitely be a successful beekeeper!

One colony can keep you active 40 hours a season; one colony is typically 30,000 to 60,000 bees. So to ascertain what a busy bee your hives will make you, just multiply the number of colonies you want by 40 hours a season. That will give you a realistic assessment of the time commitment your hives require.

You should also check with your state department of agriculture to see if bee colonies in your area must be registered. You should also check local zoning laws to see if keeping bees in your area is legal. Now let's look at a few of the other considerations in more detail.

## Family and Neighbors

Of course, before launching a beekeeping operation, you must consider your family first and foremost. Is anyone in your family severely allergic to bee stings? Does anyone in your family have an intense fear of bees? Will the hive location pose a threat to family members or pets?

Your neighbors are also a primary consideration before launching a beekeeping operation, particularly if you live on a small urban lot and your neighbors are close. You must find out whether they are allergic to stings, have a fear of bees, or have



any other objections. The good news is, most people are curious about hive behavior and will be quite interested in your hives! They also welcome the benefits to their own plants and trees.

You should also work with your neighbors to set distinct rules for their children visiting the hives. They can set times for when their children can visit the hives, how close the children can get to the hives, and specify whether the children must be supervised, so as to avoid stings.

One crucial item to know is that bees will swarm, and they will inevitably swarm on your neighbors' property. If you want to maintain good relations with your neighbors, you must be willing and able to move a swarm from their property immediately. If not, the bees will remain there for days, possibly obstructing your neighbors' normal routine. You must be intimately familiar with hive behavior and know when your colony is ready to swarm.

## Stings!

Before becoming a beekeeper, you need to know your allergic reaction level to bee stings. You must have an epi-pen on hand at all times if you are acutely allergic. Advanced beekeepers have been stung thousands of times--some as many as 200 times in 30 seconds! Mainly due to the fact that as your confidence increase's you'll feel more and more comfortable working your bees without the proper safety equipment.



It's not that bees are aggressive, but accidents do happen. If you drop a frame, the bees will become alarmed and naturally defend their territory.

If you should be stung, you will need to know what to do. When a bee stings you the stinger will remain behind because of the barbs on the stinger. DO NOT pull the stinger out this only release more of the bee venom into the sting. Scrape the stinger out. Use a fingernail, hive tool or even a credit card to remove the stinger.

The stinger contains glands that secrete chemicals that are an alarm odor. Because of this, if you are still around the hives, other bees will either sting the same area or buzz around it. Puff some smoke on the sting area and walk away from the hives. Rinsing the site with cool water may help alleviate the pain from the sting, but isn't usually necessary for the removal of the alarm chemicals if the stinger was scraped away. Scraping the stinger off will remove the alarm chemicals with the stinger.

You may want to use a sting relief medication as it will hurt for a while. Otherwise a cool compress will provide some relief.

There are some home remedies you can use that will help alleviate the discomfort:

- You can apply a solution of 1 part meat tenderizer to 4 parts water. Papain is the enzyme in meat tenderizer that will break down the protein of the bee venom, which causes the pain and the itching. Leave this on for no more than 30 minutes.
- Apply antiperspirant; the aluminum chlorohydrate reduces the effects of the bee venom.
- Use ice or cold water for 10 to 30 minutes after the sting, this blunts the body's allergic response.
- Placing a raw onion on the sting will draw the poison from the wound.
- Benadryl or any other antihistamine can provide some added relief, and help prevent the reaction from spreading.
- Calamine lotion or hydrocortisone creams can have a similar effect. A paste made of baking soda and water, left on for 10 to 20 minutes, is another option. Pain relievers such as Advil or Tylenol can help too.

Those are just some of the home remedies I've seen.

Pain and swelling are common reactions to a bee sting, and unless it's extreme or you experience breathing difficulties, you are likely not having an allergic reaction. After a day or so the sting will itch. Don't scratch, it will make it worse and you could get an infection. The swelling and itching may last for a day or two following the bee sting. A sting typically takes 4 or 5 day's to go away.

If you are having an allergic reaction you will experience difficulty in breathing and swallowing, dizziness, a rapid heartbeat, nausea, cramps and vomiting, shock and headaches. Seek medical attention immediately.

If you receive multiple stings, it may be a sign of aggressive bees. Use your smoke and close the hive as quickly as possible. Make note of anything that may have caused this behavior. Storms coming in, perfume, cologne, even the smell of the soap you wash your hands with can aggravate the bee's.



*An older version of a 0.3 mg EpiPen auto-injector*

## What Type of Beekeeper do You Want to Bee?

There are three basic types of beekeepers:

- **Hobbyist** are otherwise employed and keep bees for enjoyment rather than income from selling honey or beeswax products.
- **Sideliner** are also otherwise employed, but they supplement their income by moonlighting as beekeepers, selling honey or beeswax products.
- **Commercial** beekeepers are very large operations, and selling related products is their primary source of income. These operations can crank out 200 pounds of honey per hive. Some commercial beekeepers focus on raising queens and bees to sell to other beekeepers. In cooler climates, some commercial beekeepers actually migrate with the seasons, moving south to milder climates so that the colony can more easily survive winter and rebound in spring. Some commercial beekeepers also move to focus on pollinating particular crops, such as California's almond groves.



*Lorenzo Langstroth,  
developer of the Langstroth  
Hive*

This book is intended to assist hobbyists and sideliners in...

### End of Free Preview

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