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January 25, 2011

Getting Started

# **CONSIDERATION FOR THE FIRST-TIME BEEKEEPER**

# WHAT MAKES A BEEKEEPER?

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- ✘ A person who:
  - + likes bees
  - + likes honey
  - + Wants to help the bees
- ✘ Also, persons/people who:
  - + Are terrified of bees
  - + Who hate insects
  - + Don't know the first thing about taking care of livestock

# WHY DO YOU WANT TO KEEP BEES?

- ✘ By Products:
  - + Honey!
  - + Wax
  - + Propolis
  - + Pollen
  - + Apitherapy
- ✘ General interest/curious
- ✘ Self sufficient creatures
- ✘ Beneficial to plants, especially fruits and vegetables, therefore to us (Pollination)
- ✘ Fascinating
- ✘ CCD!
- ✘ “Kids and Adults dig it!”
- ✘ All the cool kids in the neighborhood are doing it

# EQUIPMENT, MONETARY AND SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

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# WHAT DO I NEED?

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- ✘ Required:
  - + Bees
  - + Hive
- ✘ Recommended
  - + Hive tool
  - + Veil
  - + Smoker
  - + Local Beekeeping club
  - + Extra boxes/hives
  - + Books
  - + Gloves
- ✘ Nice to have
  - + Bee coat/Suit

# HOW MUCH MONEY?

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## × Langstroth

### + Hive

#### × Deep bodies

- \* Boxes (2)  $\sim \$10 \times 2 = \$20$
- \* Frames (20)  $\sim \$1 \times 20 = \$20$
- \* Foundation ( $\sim \$1 \times 20 = \$20$ )

#### × Honey Supers

- \* Boxes (2)  $\sim \$8 \times 2 = \$16$
- \* Frames (18-20)  $\sim \$.80 \times 18 - \sim \$15$
- \* Foundation (18-20)  $\sim \$1 \times 18/20 \sim \$20$

#### × Hive cover (Telescoping recommended)

- \* From \$15-\$25

#### × Inner Cover (recommended)

- \*  $\sim \$10$

#### × Bottom board (screened BB recommended)

#### × -from \$10-\$25

# OTHER COSTS

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## ✘ Clothing

- + Coat with veil ~\$50

- + Suit ~\$90

## ✘ Tools

- + \$5-\$8

## ✘ Bees

- + Package: ~\$80

- + Nuc: ~\$100

# SUMMARY OF HIVE AND TOOLS COSTS

Item	Quantity	Price(Low)	Price(High)	Total(Low)	Total(High)
Hive Body-Deep Box	2	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
Deep foundation	20	\$0.90	\$0.90	\$18.00	\$18.00
Deep Frame	20	\$0.75	\$0.75	\$15.00	\$15.00
Hive Body-Honey Super	2	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$16.00	\$16.00
Super Foundation	20	\$0.85	\$0.85	\$17.00	\$17.00
Super Frames	20	\$0.75	\$0.75	\$15.00	\$15.00
Hive Cover	1	\$15	\$25.00	\$15.00	\$25.00
Inner Cover	1	\$8.00	\$10.00	\$8.00	\$10.00
Bottom Board	1	\$8.00	\$25.00	\$8.00	\$25.00
				<b>\$132.00</b>	<b>\$161.00</b>

## Other

Coat/Veil Combo/Suit	1	\$50	\$90.00	\$50	\$90
Hive Tool	1	\$5	\$8.00	\$5	\$8
Bees	1	\$80	\$100.00	\$80	\$100
				<b>\$135</b>	<b>\$198.00</b>

## Recommended

Hive Body-Honey Super	1	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$8.00
Super Foundation	10	\$0.85	\$0.85	\$8.50	\$8.50
Super Frames	10	\$0.75	\$0.75	\$7.50	\$7.50
Smoker	1	\$18.00	\$25.00	\$18.00	\$25.00
				<b>\$42.00</b>	<b>\$49.00</b>

**Grand  
Total**

**\$309.00**

**\$408.00**

# HOW MUCH TIME

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Assumption: New Equipment

- ✘ \*\*Weekly inspections for the first 5-6 weeks
- ✘ Preparation will take about 1 hour
  - + Getting tools/other items together
  - + Protective Clothing
  - + Extra boxes/frames
- ✘ Inspections will take between 30-45 minutes per hive (multiply by number of hives)

\*\*You will be slower in the beginning because of inexperience/reticence/fear... As with all things, you will get more efficient with practice

# SAFETY

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- ✘ Are you allergic? (And I mean truly allergic)
- ✘ Are your neighbors allergic?
- ✘ Children?
  - + Small children do need careful supervision around beehives
- ✘ Pets
  - + Some dogs are known to brave the stings of bees...but it may not be good for them

# LOCATION

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- ✘ Space
    - + Minimal
  - ✘ Sunny spot-
    - + Morning Sun
    - + Shade in late afternoon/evening (important during the Summer)
  - ✘ South/Southeast facing direction
  - ✘ Away from neighbors, sidewalks and high-traffic areas\*
- \*See next slide for Seattle code

# COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL CODES

- × Title 23 – Land Use Code
  - Subtitle IV – Land Use Regulations
  - Division 2 – Authorized Uses and Development Standards
  - Chapter 23.45 – Residential, Multi-Family Definition in the Seattle Municipal Code 23.45.150 – Beekeeping.

*“No more than four (4) hives, each with only one (1) swarm, shall be kept on lots of less than ten thousand (10,000) square feet. B. Hives shall not be located within twenty-five (25) feet of any property line except when located eight (8) feet or more above the grade immediately adjacent to the subject lot or when situated less than eight (8) feet above the adjacent existing grade and behind a solid fence or hedge six (6) feet high, parallel to any property line within twenty-five (25) feet of a hive and extending at least twenty-five (25) feet beyond the hive in both directions”*

# FIND OUT MORE

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## ✘ Books

- + [Beekeeping for Dummies](#) by Howland Blackiston
- + [The Hive and the Honeybee](#) by L.L. Langstroth
- + [Natural Beekeeping](#) by Ross Conrad
- + [The Barefoot Beekeeper](#) by Phillip J. Chandler

## ✘ [Puget Sound Beekeepers Association](#)

## ✘ [Western Washington Beekeepers Forum](#)

## ✘ Many others...