

PSBA 2024 nuc, package, queens

(Alphabetical)

	Elite Honey and Bee	Rainy Day Bees, LLC
Website Address	www.elitehoneyandbee.com 3038 Walnut Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98116 (Bee pickup address: Pick up address will be determined soon, likely in Bellevue.)	www.rainydaybees.com 17727 22nd Ave NE Shoreline, WA 98155
Contact Information	Dave Schiefelbein 206.633.2828 owner email: davechief@yahoo.com	Peter Nolte 206.519.8505 owner email. peter@rainydaybees.com
Business Description	Elite Honey & Bee is a small-scale honey producer and marketer of local urban honey since 2011. Founder Dave Schiefelbein has been transporting and selling bees for almost as long. He manages 80-100 urban honey bee colonies, teaches classes and offers consulting services to other beekeepers.	Rainy Day Bees runs numerous small urban apiaries in the Seattle area and maintains breeding yards in Shoreline, Buckley and Carnation. We produce local queens and nucleus hives, and each Spring source high quality nucleus hives from Golden West Bees, run by Eric and Randy Oliver of Scientific Beekeeping.
Breeding Stock	Bee breeding is a business, and like any business if it does not strive for constant improvement, it will fail. Established and reputable breeders (like Heitkam's Honey Bees, our supplier) are careful in their practices and selective about the traits they try put into their bees. Heitkam's has been working in cooperation with Steve Sheppard and his department's research at WSU. VSH is just one of many traits that go into the selection process of the breeder queens from which our queens then are generated. A better way to describe our queens is that they come from breeder stock whose selected traits include productivity, hardiness, strong overwintering and a reduced susceptibility to pests (including varroa) and pathogens. Artificially inseminated breeder queens, isolated mating yards, human-powered inspection of the brood pattern of new queens all lead to an exceptional product. Our multi-generational family breeder is in it for the long-term, and our decades-long association with them causes us to trust the quality of the product they produce.	The Olivers (Golden West Bees) have been selecting their stock for varroa resistance for many years. My own early spring nucs will be headed by either Olivarez Honey Bees queens or Old Sol Apiaries queens, depending on queen availability (I have both reserved). Old Sol Apiaries is known for its mite resistance testing and breeding.
Nucs	Elite Honey & Bee will be selling 5-Frame early spring nucs from Heitkam's Honey Bees in Orland, CA. With our 5-(deep) frame nucs you get bees on drawn comb, an established brood nest, honey & pollen stores, and most importantly, a young 2023 queen that has been accepted by the colony. All brood in the nuc is from the nuc's own queen. All queens are professionally patterned and graded in the field prior to being transported to Washington. Each nuc will have 3-4 frames of brood in various stages, honey and pollen. Our nucs have been set up 4+ weeks prior to sale. We call them "aged" nucs. Nucs are delivered in permanent wood or hard plastic boxes, which customers can choose to keep or return. We purposely avoid using the disposable nuc boxes and WE ENCOURAGE RETURNS SO BOXES CAN BE RECYCLED & RE-USED IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS, THUS REDUCING COSTS TO OUR CUSTOMERS AND KEEPING OUR LANDFILLS A LITTLE LESS FULL. Bees are Italian, Caucasian and New World Carniolan bees, subject to availability Cost is \$308.70 total which INCLUDES sales tax (\$20 is refundable upon return of the nuc box) Because he believes queen marking can unduly stress or damage a queen, our breeder does not mark queens.	Golden West Bees (Grass Valley, CA): 5 deep frames, race not a selection criteria, unmarked, not overwintered, \$275 + tax. Estimated final price: \$302.50. Availability and price subject to change. Rainy Day Bees (Shoreline, WA): 8 medium frames, queen and race options include overwintered/spring, marked/unmarked, Italian/Carniolan/Saskatraz (Olivarez Honey Bees), Survivor (Old Sol Apiaries Queen line name). Price varies between \$250 and \$300 + tax (estimated final price \$275-\$330)

Packages	<p>Elite Honey & Bee will be selling 3-pound Package Bees (which includes a mated, 2023 queen) from Heitkam's Honey Bees in Orland, CA. Buyers will have a choice of three races: Italian, New World Carniolan or Caucasian bees.</p> <p>Cost is \$208.37 total which INCLUDES sales tax (\$4 is refundable upon return of the core box)</p> <p>Because he believes queen marking can unduly stress or damage a queen, our breeder does not mark queens. For our customers that insist on marked queens, we do our best to accommodate.</p>	<p>Packages: 3 lbs, sourced from Olivarez Honey Bees, Italian/Carniolan/Saskatraz, unmarked \$180 + tax. Estimated final price: \$198. All details for packages subject to change. Still in negotiations.</p>
Queens	<p>Elite Honey & Bee will be selling mated queens from Heitkam's Honey Bees in Orland, CA</p> <p>Buyers will have a choice between Italian, Caucasian and New World Carniolan queens. Usually our queens are unmarked, but periodically we might have marked queens. (That detail will be clearly stated on our website.) Unlike many other suppliers, we continue to have mated queens available throughout the season.</p> <p>Cost is \$55.12 which INCLUDES sales tax</p>	<p>Old Sol Apiaries (Rogue River, Oregon): Survivor (name of queen line), Marked, \$50 + tax (estimated final price: \$55)</p> <p>Olivarez Honey Bees (Orland, CA): Italian/Carniolan/Saskatraz, Unmarked, \$50 + tax (estimated final price: \$55). \$5 extra for marking.</p> <p>Rainy Day Bees (Shoreline, WA): Local mutt, Unmarked, \$50 + tax (estimated final price: \$55). \$5 extra for marking.</p>
Warranty	<p>As always, customer satisfaction is our goal... so we stand behind the quality of the queens we sell with a full and immediate replacement warranty. Our queens are fully guaranteed to your reasonable satisfaction. There is no time limit for warranty adjustments. We do our utmost best to work with the needs of our customers.</p>	<p>All nucleus hives are guaranteed to meet size criteria, have a laying queen and be free of disease at time of receipt by customer. Issues within first two weeks not caused by beekeeper error will be rectified as appropriate to the situation (queen replacement or nuc/package replacement). Issues after the first two weeks will be considered at Rainy Day Bees discretion.</p>
Anticipated Delivery Dates/Pickup	<p>Our historical goal is to have the honey bees in Seattle by the 2nd or 3rd week of April, with distribution on Sundays. Our first load of bees is then followed by a second load of bees two weeks later. As it stands now, our two targeted pickup dates are April 13th & 27th. Specific pick-up details will be emailed to all customers as soon as we have the confirmation from our breeder.</p>	<p>April-early July, depending on product. (packages, queens, and overwintered nucs earlier, nucs headed by local queens latest)</p>