

Beekeeping

Session One: Preparation for the Start Up

Planned sessions, schedule

- (1) Preparation for the start up**
- (2) Beekeeper's activities**
- (3) Focus: the honeybee**
- (4) Special topics**
 - Products of the hive
 - Diseases and pests of the honeybee
 - Africanized honeybees
- (5) Field sessions (by appointment)**

Tonight's Agenda

- **Introductions**
- **Calendar and timing issues**
- **Basic Requirements**
- **Alternatives for hive configuration**
- **Getting the bees**
- **Sources of supply**
- **Q & A**

Introductions

- **Attendees**

- Name
- Place of residence
- Experience with bees
- Describe nature of interest

- **Presenters**

- Bio
- Background

Procedural Items

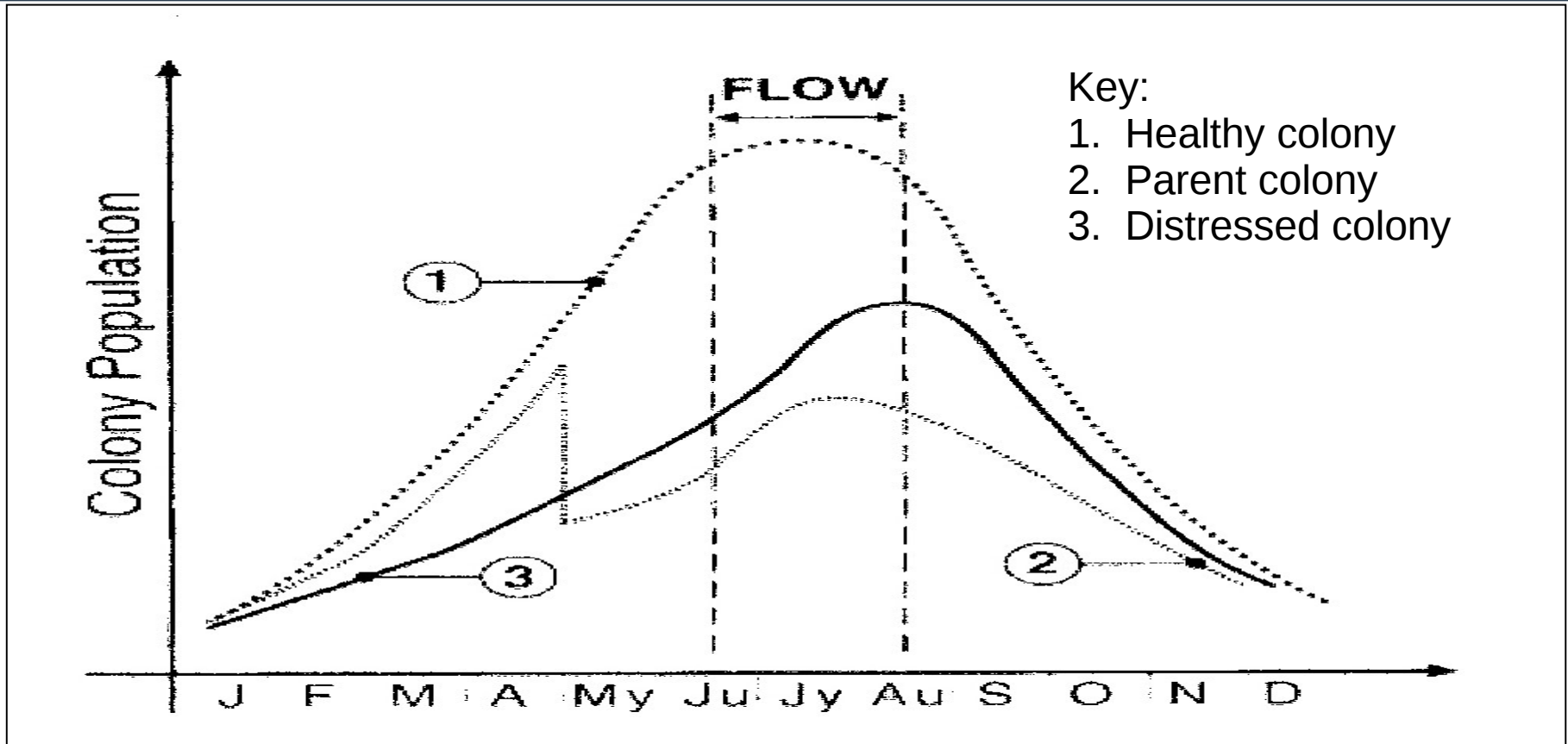
- **A lot to cover, key on fundamentals**
- **Hold questions until Q & A session**
- **Requests for clarification are OK**
- **A break to stretch your legs**
- **Handouts provided, add your notes**
- **Resource pages**

Calendar & timing issues impacting startup

- **Bee Season**
- **Vendor issues**
- **Acquisition**
 - Orders
 - Delivery
 - Assembly
- **Plan & budget for expense**
- **Alamogordo: registration/approval process**
- **End Point: Introduction of bees to hive**



The bees' season



- **Spring is best time to begin**
- **Natural build up period, preparing to work nectar flows**

Vendors effect on timing

- **Bees—seasonal availability**
- **For equipment supply, no local vendors**
- **Delivery expense and delay**
- **Many items must be assembled and painted**
- **Allow sufficient lead time**
- **Budget for the expense**

Minimum start up resource requirements

- **Apiary site(s)**
- **Protective equipment**
- **Hive equipment (wooden ware)**
- **Tools**
- **And of course, the bees**



Apiary Site

- **Stand off from neighbors, human occupied spaces**
- **Afternoon shade desirable**
- **Near water source**
- **Be mindful of flight path**
- **Clear of brush immediately around hives**
- **Issues with mowing**
- **Adequate spacing between colonies**
- **Registration, if within Alamogordo city limits**

Protective gear

- **Veil (recommend one with helmet)**
- **Bee gloves**
- **Long sleeve shirt**
- **Full length pants**
- **Ankle straps or gaiters (optional)**
- **High top shoes/boots**
- **Bee suit not required, but will allow far fewer “bees into your bonnet”**

Tools

- **Smoker and fuel**
- **Smoker box (optional)**
- **Bee brush**
- **Hive tool, at least one**
- **Ratchet straps ***
- **Hand truck ***



* useful for moving hives

Hive configurations

- **Principal options**
 - Langstroph (standardized dimensions)
 - Top bar
- **Other less readily available forms**
- **Commercially available**
- **Make your own**

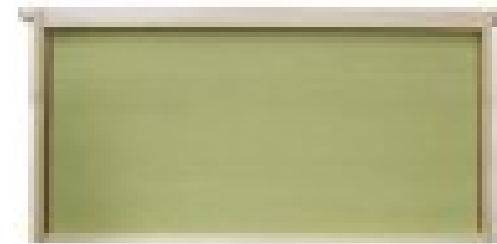
Major hive configuration types



Top Bar



Langstroth



Langstroth—principal components

- **Hive stand**
- **Bottom board & entrance reducer**
- **Hive bodies and frames (size and frame options)**
 - Brood box
 - Honey super (extracted or comb)
- **Inner cover**
- **Outer cover**
- **Feeder (variety of forms)**

Langstroth—other components

- **Queen excluder**
- **Double screen board**
- **Robbing screen**
- **Harvest related items**
 - Bee escape
 - Traps for pollen & propolis
 - Fume board
 - Extracting tools, equipment

Top Bar Hive

- **Horizontal orientation**
- **Usually on a stand, convenient height**
- **Uses bars rather than frames for honeycomb**
- **Usually configured as a single box**
- **Inspection does not require disassembly of hive parts**
- **Less tied to “standardized” measurements**

Hive Options—Pros & Cons

Top Bar

- **Pro**

- Convenient height
- Relatively inexpensive
- Simple

- **Con**

- Not easily moved
- Less suited to harvest in quantity

Langstroth

- **Pro**

- Scalable
- Modular
- Easier to relocate

- **Con**

- Vertical, can get tall
- More expensive
- Requires bending & lifting

Bees

Two colonies recommended

- Transfer of resources
- Observe differences
- **Purchase options**
 - Packages, 3# typical
 - Nucs with laying queen
- **Reminder of vendor seasonality**
 - Bees in package form
 - Mated queens



Bee strains

- **Most readily available**

- Italians
- Carniolan
- Russian
- Hygienic



- **Artificially inseminated, open mated**
- **Characteristics of behavior**
- **Suitability/"best fit" to you**

Sources of supply

- **Commercial**
 - Bees
 - Wooden ware, equipment, treatments, etc.
- **Make your own**
- **Swarm capture (not suggested, unreliable)**
- **Other thoughts**
 - Painting, assembly
 - Caution regarding used equipment
- **Coordinate pickup of package bees**

Q & A

- **Calendar**
- **Apiary site**
- **Equipment**
 - Protective gear
 - Hive configuration
 - Harvest
- **Bee stock**
- **Suppliers**

Conclusion

- **Next session**
- **Thank you**
 - Debbie & Larry Daniels for top bar hive display
 - Bee suppliers for donated educational materials