

Liquid gold (honey) & other products

Whilst the prospect of harvesting honey is the most attractive goal for new beekeepers. Beekeeping produces an array of potential products (and byproducts) that can be marketed to the consumer, which can include:



1. Bee Pollen :

Bee pollen is a nutrient-rich material that bees get from flower pollen. Proteins, vitamins, minerals, amino acids, and antioxidants are

all included in its little granules. Bees combine pollen, nectar, and enzymes to form the granules. The granules are then kept in the hive as nourishment for the colony, essential for its growth and development. Because of its potential advantages, including increased energy, immune system support, and general wellness, bee pollen is frequently included in health supplements. Usually taken as granules, powder, or capsules, it has a pleasant, flowery flavor. In particular, the larvae and queen bees are fed pollen to support their growth and well-being. Worker bees also consume it for nutrition and energy. The colony's primary food source is this stored pollen, particularly during the colder months when nectar is limited and flowers aren't blossoming.



2. Bees Wax:

Honeybees are the natural producers of beeswax. It is utilised to construct honeycombs and is secreted by worker bees from specialized glands. The substance that makes up the honeycomb's walls enables the formation and honey-filling of those lovely little hexagons.

The wax is usually golden-yellow, but it might be pale yellow or brown depending on where it comes from and how it is processed. Because of its natural, non-toxic, and moisturising qualities, beeswax is used in various goods, including candles, lotions, cosmetics, and food wrapping. It is renowned for its long-lasting, protecting properties and lovely, delicate scent.



3. Honey comb:

In their nests, honey bees construct a honeycomb, a mass of hexagonal prismatic cells made of beeswax, to house their brood (eggs, larvae, and pupae) and their honey and pollen reserves. Especially in the winter, when survival is of the utmost importance, the bees make honeycombs for storage. Honeycomb is sometimes sold in combination with natural honey.

Threats to Honeybees Found Locally



Varroa Mite



Wax Moth



Pesticides

Other threats include habitat loss, climate change, genetic diversity and invasive species.



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Cayman Islands Government



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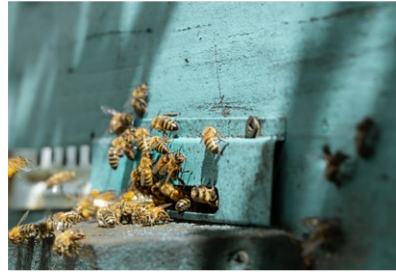
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Beekeeping in the Cayman Islands



History of Local Beekeeping

Beekeeping in the Cayman islands has been long practiced for over 30 years. With the Watler family having been one of the first official beekeepers in the country. Today, there are over 20 local beekeepers across the three islands, supplying honey through local stores and outlets. Hive removals are a private service that is provided by these local apiculturists, aiding in the removal of hives within residential and industrial properties.



Equipment:

There are a variety of equipment options now on the market, with many available locally. In your startup hive kits it is recommended that you have the following:

- Bottom board
- Lower and upper deep
- Honey super (shallow or medium)
- Inner & outer covers
- Frames and foundation for both deeps and the honey super
- Veil and gloves
- Smoker
- Hive tool
- Queen excluder
- Hive stand

Getting Started

Location, location, location...

It is important to choose a well-suited, apiary location. Whilst considerations for the hives themselves are important, public safety and proximity to passersby should also not be forgotten. In addition, the following components are recommended:

- Easy access to your hives
- Locations with good drainage
- Nearby water sources for the bees
- Dappled sunlight
- Minimal wind
- Area away from pesticides spraying
- Facing hives to the southeast
- Good ventilation

Training:

For your beekeeping endeavors to be successful and healthy, proper training is necessary. In order to acquire the information and abilities required for efficient hive management, we strongly advise pursuing professional training. Training will teach you important things like:

- Hive management and care
- Bee health and disease prevention
- Seasonal upkeep and maintenance
- Harvesting honey and other hive products
- Safe handling of beekeeping equipment

Proper training can help you deal with beekeeping challenges and ensure success.