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Hi all, sorry for what maybe a load of incorrect terms in my following message as youll see Im not a bee expert; but hope some of you that are maybe able to help me! I have noticed a lot of bee activity in my back garden over the past month and they seem to be going in & out of my roof through a hole in the bargeboards just under the guttering. There are so many now that the noise is very noticeable inside the house right above the bed room; they are buzzing away all day & night. I have not disturbed them yet, but I want to know what to do. The house is south facing and we regularly have wasp nests which Im happy to kill off or leave as they tend to be small and up in the rafters rather than right above the ceiling / plasterboard. I really don't want to kill these bees but do not know what else to do. Most information sites seem to be about extermination rather than removal... Does any one have any suggestions that I can either do myself or call to have help me move these little guys on to somewhere they can be happy but not so noisy in my roof? Im worried that if I leave them the size of the colony / nest will get much larger. Thanks in advance Chris. Having multiple options for emergency use is crucial when dealing with bees. It's recommended to have either a local farmers' field or a BKA association location as an alternative in case of an emergency. While having hives and NUCs in your garden can be beneficial, it's essential to consider the potential for increased numbers during peak swarming season. In my experience, using NUC swarm control methods requires additional hives, which can lead to overcrowding if not managed properly. Having colonies with the same size and shape makes it easier to mix and match when manipulating them. However, having multiple hives of different sizes can make management more challenging. I've found that having everything the same size and shape has its advantages in terms of ease of use. For instance, my all-NUC colonies have been working well for me this year, but I've also had some split NUCs try to swarm, which required further splitting into full-sized hives or other NUCs. To prepare for swarming, it's crucial to plan ahead and consider the space requirements for both main colonies and NUCs. Having a backup location is also essential in case of a defensive colony that needs to be relocated temporarily. In my garden, I've noticed that hives facing west tend to be more active and grow faster than those facing other directions. I attribute this to the bees flying later into the evening. However, it's essential to have enough space for management, as guards can patrol up to 20 meters from the hives. I recommend using high fencing with green scaffolding fabric as an artificial barrier between the hive(s) and where you'll be working regularly. It's also essential to have alternative plans in place for a defensive hive, as some colonies can become aggressive without warning. Re-queening takes time, and it's crucial to plan ahead to ensure the health and well-being of your bees. Having quality queen bees from trusted suppliers can significantly improve your chances of getting a "nice" colony. However, temperament is largely determined by genetics, and even with careful handling, some colonies may remain defensive or aggressive.pleasure to handle but have had to split twice ALL colonies no matter the queen have had bad temperaments this year. This improves your chances of a "nice" colony. It doesn't guarantee temperament Agreed It's interesting to hear thoughts and experiences regarding stock, too. We've kept it simple. Buy quality queens from trusted suppliers instead of gambling with swarms or mongrels. Have a spare nuc box for each hive if they make swarm preparations. Though we now just move the old gueen and some frames of bees to the other end of the long hive. Super simple. Have a backup location in case that colony, may need an area for requeening and calming tempers: nine weeks maximum. Roger Wilco's bees have very swarmy and defensive traits. Swarming trait is more likely if using swarm traps. Bees will swarm when conditions right or wrong! Our mad spaniel zooms around hives, and family mows and strims near them on cooler days when not out mass. Get lovely mongrels and swarms, but depends on surrounding genetics. We prefer to buy quality queens reared by professionals. Amanda Probably phase of the Moon and whether polytunnel modelled on Khufu's pyramid, too. James My hives in garden- so bees 'see' me most every day. They know not a threat rarely sting. Your right See that's what. I think they know you're not threat when me and hubby went Bee tent Devon county show felt calm relaxed. Whilst applaud hopes and expectations please be careful Bees DO have bad hair days however chilled out may not accept calmness. Just prepared. If problems then square of six foot trellis around hives will help end. Amanda Sorry for little delay been offline while. Get Buckfast's Northumberland honey very calm usually only needing light puff smoke upon opening rarely show signs swarming. Best Carniolan's found Tiger Hall Bees lovely bees productive gentle temperament sell nucleus colonies delivery but generally not ready mid-June from memory. Unfortunately, Northumberland's nucleus colonies delivery but generally not ready mid-June from memory. Unfortunately, Northumberland's nucleus colonies delivery but generally not ready mid-June from memory. Unfortunately, Northumberland's nucleus colonies delivery but generally not ready mid-June from memory. Unfortunately, Northumberland's nucleus colonies delivery but generally not ready mid-June from memory. Unfortunately, Northumberland's nucleus colonies delivery but generally not ready mid-June from memory. Unfortunately, Northumberland's nucleus colonies delivery but generally not ready mid-June from memory. Unfortunately, Northumberland's nucleus colonies delivery but generally not ready mid-June from memory. Unfortunately, Northumberland's nucleus colonies delivery but generally not ready mid-June from memory. Unfortunately, Northumberland is nucleus colonies delivery but generally not ready mid-June from memory. Unfortunately, Northumberland is nucleus colonies delivery but generally not ready mid-June from memory. Unfortunately, Northumberland is nucleus and nucleus colonies delivery but generally not ready mid-June from memory. Unfortunately, Northumberland is nucleus and nucleus an southwest! Do deliver queens though a queen without colony unlikely help. Worth keeping in mind exceptional bees Tiger Hall sell nucleus colonies Hi Thanks so much feedback really helpful We going Devon county show May visiting Bee tent again. Been for 3 years COVID lack stalls missed buying honeycomb speaking people friendly. Getting excited setting up hives buying equipment planting flowers fixing poly tunnel all done before bees arrive next year. Amanda Hi Thanks so much feedback really helpful We going Devon county show May visiting Bee tent again. Been for 3 years COVID lack stalls missed buying honeycomb speaking people friendly. Getting excited setting up hives buying equipment planting flowers fixing poly tunnel all done before bees arrive next year. I haven't been to shows years either. County shows always highlight childhood days Interesting characters too I love polytunnel's bring on early crops great place retreat rainy! Crops will be well pollinated next year. Hope bountiful harvest you We normally go shows every year Bee tent first stop poly tunnel my tropical plants last year rats compromised it all plants died except dragon fruit 10 survived start over again. Have Tamarrillo plants sown more seedsThank goodness we get some honey harvests, the enjoyment is what counts. Thanks Amanda We always go to the show and the Bee tent is our first stop. The poly tunnel is for my tropical plants and last year the rats ruined it, all my plants died except my dragon fruit which 10 survived so I had to start over again. I have 3 Tamarrillo so far 6" tall 8 naranjilla and 4 strawberry guava so sown more seeds. I sell the fruit and veggies which are different. Thank goodness we get some honey harvests, the enjoyment is what counts. Thanks Amanda I'm sorry to hear about your plants, as a gardener I know how long it takes to establish them. I haven't tried any of those varieties, mostly because I've never had a poly tunnel However, I do have a few pots of Chilean Guava outdoors, evergreen, super tasty and extremely resilient regarding bugs. Hopefully next years weather will be similar to this year and you'll get a great honey harvest. I'm sorry to hear about your plants, as a gardener I know how long it takes to establish them. I haven't tried any of those varieties, mostly because I've never had a poly tunnel However, I do have a few pots of Chilean Guava outdoors, evergreen, super tasty and extremely resilient regarding bugs. Hopefully next years weather will be similar to this year and you'll get a great honey harvest. Whilst watching bee venom immunotherapy, i was advised by the clinic at Addenbrookes that in the event of a bee sting to take 2 antihistamine tablets and wait to see if the epipen was needed. They recommended cetirizine tablets. Given that each treatment is the equivalent of 2 bee stings, I feel comfortable with the risk (and reality) of receiving a sting or two, but aim to avoid any stings by always being properly suited, booted and gloved. Zipped into my Old Castle suit, with their gloves and surgical gloves on top (which I change for each hive, out of an excess of caution, and to minimise the presence of stings on the gloves), and long wellies, I feel comfortable and safe in shorts and tee shirt underneath, even with a feisty hive, and covered in bees. I do envy those who are entirely unaffected by stings and can handle bees without gloves, veil etc, but that is just not possible for anyone with an allergy to bee venom. They probably recommended cetirizine as its absorbed faster than some of the alternatives, the higher dose will also appears to be a "2nd generation antihistamine" that's not a fortune for a bucket full & non drowsy. So if you wanted to premeditate fire a busy day the driving risk is mitigated. Been having a read up myself, there are a few differences. It also appears to be a "2nd generation antihistamine" that's not a fortune for a bucket full & non drowsy. So if you wanted to premeditate fire a busy day the driving risk is mitigated. Although its one of the "non drowsy" antihistamines it still puts me to sleep. The least drowsiness inducing is supposed to be fexofenadine (fine for me), its all about how much they pass the blood-brain barrier. Slower absorption though so maybe less suitable taken after exposure. Although its one of the "non drowsy" antihistamines it still puts me to sleep. The least drowsiness inducing is supposed to be fexofenadine (fine for me), its all about how much they pass the blood-brain barrier. Slower absorption though so maybe less suitable taken after exposure. Thanks again. I do get drowsy with Puriton, but I am heavy-handed with it and sleep really well Might get some cetirizine and see how it goes. Although its one of the "non drowsy" antihistamines it still puts me to sleep. The least drowsiness inducing is supposed to be fexofenadine (fine for me), its all about how much they pass the blood-brain barrier. Slower absorption though so maybe less suitable taken after exposure. I have taken the fexofenadine on 3 occasions and having had experience of antihistamines of many types they have had the least negative affect on me of all. It has been a bad year for pollen and my strimming had got way behind so I purchased a mask that does the job properly. Immune reactions are something I have been studying these last couple of years via Doctors around the world who have been using antihistames of varying types to treat symptoms you would at first not connect with their use. Over reactive immune systems to viruses and infections for instance can lead to an overload of vital organs for example. Thinking outside of the box I agree with you. I don't either. This is not the Chinese version. A puka epipen, from a pharmacy after a consultation. I could understand you baulking at the price I am still confused, which pharmacy do you go to that suggests you buy on line. If it is an on line pharmacy I would be really worried. You are talking to someone, somewhere that is suggesting you buy something on line. If it is an on line pharmacy do you go to that suggests you buy on line. If it is an on line pharmacy I would be really worried. You are talking to someone, somewhere that is suggesting you buy something on line. I am sorry but this sounds fraught with dangers. There are loads, including Boots. I guess you have to lie to their online doctor form, it's just a matter of filling in their required information and ticking boxes. They want to sell you stuff [raison d'etre] if possible. To hone your skills, book an appointment with your doctor. I was told "come back after you've had an incident" which is pretty challenging. You need to fill out the form/tick boxes for legal responsibilities before they can prescribe it. Let's be honest, they want to sell you stuff [raison d'etre] if possible. Look up anaphylaxis in the stickies and search "anaphylaxis" returns lots of information. Your needs are at risk, being prepared is the way to go. The medical profession has strict guidelines, but it's a difficult area apart from financial considerations for the NHS. The injections aren't harmless by any means, the risk-benefit ratio is clear in severe anaphylaxis, but they're issued to laypeople with little or no training. There's a real risk of them being used inappropriately, eg treating allergic but not anaphylaxis, but they're issued to laypeople with little or no training. There's a real risk of them being used inappropriately, eg treating allergic but not anaphylaxis, but they're issued to laypeople with little or no training. There's a real risk of them being used inappropriately, eg treating allergic but not anaphylaxis, but they're issued to laypeople with little or no training. There's a real risk of them being used inappropriately, eg treating allergic but not anaphylaxis, but they're issued to laypeople with little or no training. them from acting in your best interests. I work with my Doctor but also do my own due diligence and sometimes seek help elsewhere. All drugs have their dangers and some are prescribed willy-nilly while others you need to jump through hoops. Good info when prescribing, not just small print would help. I had a local reaction from stings - localized swelling, lots of heat, itching for a week even though I was on antihistamine for hay fever. I wore PPE etc and occasionally got additional symptoms like itchy palms and soles of feet. Eventually spoke to doctor who said "You realize you might die don't you" Put on list to see consultant prescribed 2 epipens and Piriton.I'm not gloveless but rub a few drops of Olbas Oil on my nitrile disposable gloves, this discourages bees from landing on or stinging. They are commercial operations though, not backyard ones. We met a bloke here recently from NSW who drives semi-trailers for a beekeeping operation with 14000 hives. They work hard, taking them to different places and pollination contracts etc. You can't wear nitriles because they don't breathe. It's well known to be heavy, hot and hard work. I wear strong leather gloves which don't worry me at all... It's strange how stings in different places react differently - stings on my hands are usually a few seconds of stinging and hardly any reaction, wrists a bit of swelling but again transient pain, head not much swelling but a bit more tender. Run your hands down your forearms a few times after working on hives to brush off any stingers. I learned this from Murray Arkadieff, who once told me about the time his truck crashed while transporting bees at night and ended up in a wet ditch, causing the load to shift violently. This experience led him to say "this is going to be the worst evening of your life," but fortunately, everyone involved managed to sort out around 500 stingers. If you're not as fortunate with an immune system that's fully developed, it would have been quite a different story. A year or two ago, I made it my goal to never get stung again by bees. To be honest, I've mostly discussing defensive colonies usually refer to the number of stings they've suffered. But I wasn't stung, which is becoming increasingly common for me nowadays. To minimize my exposure, I wear soft, tight-fitting leather gloves with latex inside and nitrile outside - these stay clean and dry throughout the session. This year, I was even able to pick up queens without any issues. One of the biggest advantages of using such protective gear is that it allows me to focus on handling the bees effectively. I've found a way to keep bees without getting stung too often. It's not about being macho or thinking it's part of the job; I just want to handle them sensitively and avoid unnecessary stings. Some beekeepers might think it's cool to get stung, but I don't understand that mindset. I prefer working gloveless because I'm more dexterous and can read the bees better, but having non-stinging bees would be even better! Although I accept that I'll get stung sometimes, I try to minimize them by using a specific protocol. My goal is to have regular sting exposure after being away from the bees for a while, following advice from an endocrinologist. I've even considered deliberately getting stung a few times during winter. I've found that using marigolds with blue flocked type as my main glove and a nitrile over glove works well for me. Each colony has its own set of over gloves, and if they're still usable, I put them under the roof for next time. I also use separate hive tools for each colony. This approach might be more practical for those with multiple apiaries, focusing on apiary biosecurity rather than individual hives. I've tried using thicker gloves than nitriles, but it's not my preference. I'd rather work without any gloves, but my hands get too stings. A specialist consultant told me this is just a myth beekeepers discuss among themselves. Research does suggest that older beekeepers tend to have less severe symptoms after being stung due to natural desensitization from prolonged exposure to bee venom allergens. However, it's essential to remember that this research involves the general allergic or not kept me up at night. The study on beekeepers showed that repeated exposure to venom can lead to natural tolerance, but it also increased the risk of severe systemic reactions. I'm curious how others introduce their children to beekeeping without exposing them to potential allergies. I've considered getting an EpiPen just in case my child gets stung again, but I don't know if it's necessary. Does anyone have experience with this or similar situations. In non-beekeeping environments, what would you do if your child got stung by an unknown insect? Would you react the same way as you would in a beekeeping situation? I've come across some advice on removing stingers, but it seems that speed is more important than technique. Some people swear by applying heat to the sting site ASAP to denature toxins, while others use tweezers or specialized devices like the "biteaway" device. Has anyone tried using antihistamines and Anthisan after getting stung? I've heard mixed results on their effectiveness, but it's worth a shot. Before inspections, I take 2 antihistamines to minimize reactions, and if I get stung, I take more. It's interesting how different people react to bee stings in various areas of the body. Some experience immediate pain, while others have lasting swelling. What are your experiences with bee stings, and do you have any tips for minimizing reactions? Using an EpiPen after a Bee Sting: My Experience and AdviceA few stings from hornets can leave a lasting impression - unfortunately, it happened to me too. When it comes to buying an EpiPen I couldn't get one without a prescription even though they're available online. Luckily, I have one that's out of date and might buy two this time. In the past, I've used a "bite-away" device after being stung or on my face. It's a battery-powered pen-like device with a heating element that provides a brief zap of heat to reduce swelling. However, been also a strength of the past, I've used a "bite-away" device after being stung or on my face. It's a battery-powered pen-like device with a heating element that provides a brief zap of heat to reduce swelling. However, been also a strength of the past, I've used a "bite-away" device after being stung or on my face. It's a battery-powered pen-like device with a heating element that provides a brief zap of heat to reduce swelling. venom immunotherapy is also available, which recommends taking antihistamine tablets and waiting to see if an EpiPen is needed. My doctors have prescribed me treatments to manage stings, so my doctors have a basis for their prescriptions. One of my doctors even carries an EpiPen, which helps them understand the importance of timely treatment. We need to be realistic and manage possible outcomes. It's essential to discuss this with your doctor seriously and find one who takes your allergy seriously. I recently looked at online prices and found that 2 x 300mg pens cost 150. It's worth noting stings by wearing protective gear. Regarding beekeeping frames, I've been looking at different suppliers and would like some advice. Can anyone explain the difference between DN1/SN1, DN4/SN4, DN5, B.S. Manley, 14 x 12, and Comm.16 x 10/16 x 6 frames? I'm currently using a BS National Hive and need to purchase new brood and super frames. I've got a bit of an issue with bees living in the wall cavity near my daughter's bedroom. They're entering through the air vents under our eaves, and it seems like they're making themselves at home. I'm wondering if I should just leave them be or try to get them removed. From what I understand, DN1 frames need spacers or castellation to space them correctly in national brood boxes, while DN4 and DN5 have wider Hoffman self-spacing sides that don't require any extra spacing. The bees seem to like these types of frames a lot more than the others, but I'm not sure why. I've also been reading about different frame sizes and their uses. It seems like DN1 and DN2 are for standard national brood boxes, while 14x12 is a bit bigger and has wider top bars. But then there's commercial frames that are short lugged and only go in commercial size boxes. I'm not sure what the best option is for my hives. I'm not sure what the best option is for bottom bars. It seems like they're meant for cut comb, but I'm not sure if that's right. As for my issue with the bees in the wall? It's a bit concerning, especially since they're entering through my daughter's bedroom air vents. I've been doing some research and found a great resource on frame spacing from Cheshire Beeks. They have a wonderful web page with all sorts of information on the subject. But I'm not surecand their uses. One beekeeper mentioned that 5/16" is a "golden number," but I'm not surecand their uses. One beekeeper mentioned that 5/16" is a "golden number," but I'm not surecand their uses. One beekeeper mentioned that 5/16" is a "golden number," but I'm not surecand their uses. One beekeeper mentioned that 5/16" is a "golden number," but I'm not surecand their uses. One beekeeper mentioned that 5/16" is a "golden number," but I'm not surecand their uses. One beekeeper mentioned that 5/16" is a "golden number," but I'm not surecand their uses. One beekeeper mentioned that 5/16" is a "golden number," but I'm not surecand their uses. One beekeeper mentioned that 5/16" is a "golden number," but I'm not surecand their uses. One beekeeper mentioned that 5/16" is a "golden number," but I'm not surecand their uses. what that means or how it relates to frame spacing. Another beekeeper asked if anyone knew how many DN4 sidebars could be made from a Hoppas foot of beech wood, which seems like a strange question. I hope someone can offer some advice on both the bees in my wall cavity and the different types of frames. I'm not sure what to do or where to start!My mum has had some issues with bees getting into her air vent recently. Apparently it's become a bit of a bumble problem, so she taped up the internal vent to keep them out. However, they're still free to come and go as they please from outside - which is nice, I suppose. It seems that older vents are more prone to insects entering, especially if there aren't any bees seen inside. She got quite a few bees into her air vent, which led to the bathroom extractor fan being fitted in the loft space. With householders' permission, she managed to trap them all except for about 15. They'd been living in a piece of white comb that was developing within the tube. She safely relocated the colony to a new home and even got some compliments on her beekeeping skills. She's had an Oz Armour beekeeping suit since then, which has proven to be quite durable. However, she does find it a bit heavy and stiff compared to other suits. The ventilation system is one of its best features, especially on hot days. Another advantage is that it provides good protection without needing layers underneath. Her only gripe with the suit is that it's not ideal for navigating through brambles. I like to wear my bee suit) and then there is no cooling effect. The suit is sting proof, so that's good from that aspect, but I find it almost as hot to wear as my Sherriff suit if there is no breeze. All in all I wouldnt buy again, but would probably go to Old Castle. Having said that the suit seems very robust and will likely outlast me.. With a lot of expansion this year I find myself constantly in my bee suit, which is a pretty basic one I bought when I didn't know if beekeeping was going to stick. I've decided it may be justifiable to upgrade myself to something nicer. People seem to like Oz Armour, are those generally best do people think? I guess the things that matter are sting resistance (one day maybe I'll solve all my hot hives but I'm not there yet), general comfort, easy removal of veil for laundry, enough pockets for hive tool/torch/marking cage ideally. If it matters, I am vertically challenged (5'2") so whatever suit needs to be available in size shortarse. Ahh, but are the other dimensions commensurate with that 5/2. . I have suits and jackets from Safta bee and AGS, 3 layer, good zips, plenty of pockets and very reasonable price. That way you can have several, one in wash and dry whilst wearing tether. LaLa, my yellow suited helper is 5-2 and the small is a good fit with plenty of room. Came from AGS Last edited: Jun 18, 2025 I'm a fan of the Old Castle bee suit. It's light and allows breeze through, though still hot. It is more voluminous than a traditional cotton suit, but much better sting protection. Even with villainous colonies, you can wear a tee shirt and shorts underneath quite safely. I would definitely buy another. Not tried the Oz suit, but would like to compare them. Ahh, but are the other dimensions commensurate with that 5/2. . I have suits and jackets from Safta bee and AGS, 3 layer, good zips, plenty of pockets and very reasonable price. That way you can have several, one in wash and dry whilst wearing tether. LaLa, my yellow suited helper is 5-2 and the small is a good fit with plenty of room. Came from AGS Hmm yeah I do see a benefit to having more than one suit. For some reason my suit is always getting covered in muck nevermind everything else bee related. I'm fairly normal sized alright (pretty wide in the shoulder for my height but that's generally only an issue for very tailored stuff, ha). I'm a fan of the Old Castle bee suit. It's light and allows breeze through, though still hot. It is more voluminous chan a traditional cotton suit, but much better sting protection. Even with villainous colonies, you can wear a tee shirt and shorts underneath quite safely. I would definitely buy another. Not tried the Oz suit, but would like to compare them. Hadn't considered old castle or BBwear upthread but I'll definitely take a look. Old Castle in particular seem to be set up to properly ship to Ireland so that's good. And I've been curious to try their new nucs... I do hope to exit my 'hot hives' beekeeping era at some point pretty soon but experience has shown that bees were bred and trained by ninjas...they can't find a way in. The front of the fencing veil unzips and folds down...handy for driving around. I only use top pocket for recording device to make my notes from, and 1 for spare nitrile gloves. benefit to having more than one suit Definitely, and I wear a clean one each day. curious to try their new nucs. Made in a faraway country and a plasticky copy of the BS, with incompatible stacking feet and last I heard, BS were taking legal action against OCFH. Does buying products designed & made in Britain, and reducing environmental products designed with incompatible stacking feet and last I heard, BS were taking legal action against OCFH. Does buying products designed & made in Britain, and reducing environmental products designed with incompatible stacking feet and last I heard, BS were taking legal action against OCFH. stick with more of what you have. Last edited: Jun 19, 2025 BeeKeeping Supporter BeeKeeping S exit my 'hot hives' beekeeping era at some point pretty soon but experience has shown that circumstances can turn pussycats into tigers so sting resistance can never be a bad thing! Another vote for Old Castle ventilated suits - I have two of their jackets .. well made, reasonably sting proof and the veils are good. The material gets a bit fluffy when it catches on brambles etc. but does not affect the performance. When there is a slight breeze you really notice the difference .. still and very sunny - not sure it makes a lot of difference. FWIW they are very nice people to deal with. Hmm yeah I do see a benefit to having more than one suit. For some reason my suit is always getting covered in muck nevermind everything else bee related. I'm fairly normal sized alright (pretty wide in the shoulder for my height but that's generally only an issue for very tailored stuff, ha). i went for the brown rather that white suit from Oz A this time....called khaki, but is much better than murky white post propolis etc...and padded knees are lovely front veil having zip is great, i've not known anything different, but its commented on a lot when with other Beekeepers should consider Old Castle's nucs, which seem to ship well to Ireland. Their sizing might need adjusting, though - the writer got a size 16 but is typically a 10/12. The velcro on their suits can be finicky with thin wrists. Page 2 discusses the drawbacks of buying products from far-off countries and supporting incompatible stacking feet, which could lead to legal issues. Buying British-made beekeeping gear might seem like a good idea, but since Brexit, it's become harder to obtain UK goods due to bureaucratic hurdles. One case involved a 700 purchase that couldn't be shipped. OCF does bear similarities to BS nucs, and Maisemore extensions are listed as compatible on both websites. Getting multiple suits is a good idea, as argued by AGS enthusiasts - their suits offer great value, being comfy, cool, and sting-resistant through the arms. The only drawback is the veil/hat combo, where the hat part can be too small for some faces. A baseball cap under it might help. Another issue with the suit is loose wrist elastics, assuming long gauntlets are worn over them - a hair tie around each wrist does work, though. The union jack flag on one arm might need removal, depending on local sensitivities. Simon-the-Beekeeper sold triple-XL BuzzWare jackets with fencing hoods at a 'closing down' sale for silly money, but they're not the writer's preference. They prefer their home-made hat & veil, cobbled together from an angler's keep-net and a British Railways hard-hat. Thornes bee suits are also mentioned as reliable options, particularly for beginners. They offer traditional cotton veils that provide good protection but can get hot. LJ recommends them, saying they've lasted years with proper care. The writer's partner bought him a cheap bee suit, which was ultimately disappointing due to the veil material splitting easily. A kevlar replacement veil solved the issue, though. Another beekeeper is new and inquiring about plastic hives suitable for Scotland's weather - they're looking at OMLET or Technoset but want advice on their experiences with these products. Technoset hives, but some are worried about their ability to withstand harsh weather conditions like those found in Scotland. One user has insulation and can be more durable than Technoset. Some users have expressed concerns about the fragility of polystyrene hives, but others argue that this material is not as fragile as previously thought. One user has seen polyhives in use commercially in Scotland and notes that they can withstand harsh winters. A commercial product called a "unique twin walled hive body" offers additional protection from weather extremes, allowing bees to forage more efficiently without the need for Technoset hives is a type of polypropylene that becomes brittle at around 0C, making it prone to cracking in cold temperatures. This material is not ideal for beehive construction, as it lacks the toughness and insulation properties required for long-term use. In contrast, expanded polystyrene (EPS) has proven effective in colder climates, providing both insulation and protection from impacts. However, EPS can be fragile and may require additional reinforcement for optimal performance. The concept of splitting a hive into three sections, as mentioned by some users, is indeed beneficial, particularly when working with nucs. This design allows for efficient management of resources and space allocation within the hive. Nevertheless, it's crucial to understand that polypropylene (PP) hives are not designed for frequent splitting or reconfiguration. In terms of ventilation, the hive's twin-walled construction has its limitations, especially when exposed to extreme temperatures. The material's compressive strength is often essential to carefully evaluate the properties of the materials used in beehive construction and consider factors such as temperature resistance, toughness, and insulation when making informed decisions. The structural integrity of propolis and polyhives is a topic of interest, with the GTT being a key factor in determining their performance. A temperature range of 25C is often cited as the point at which propolis becomes brittle, while above this temperature it flows like plastic. This has implications for the durability and longevity of polyhives. Many beekeepers have reported positive experiences with polyhives, citing their ability to withstand harsh weather conditions and provide a durable solution for honey storage. The fact that some polyhives come with an 8-year guarantee is a testament to their robustness. However, it's essential to note that this durability also means they can be more challenging to repair if damaged. Some beekeepers have experimented with splitting polyboxes into three sections, which can provide additional stability and support for the hive. Others have reported success with using Kingspan materials to reinforce the boxes and make them more resistant to damage. When it comes to coexistence with badgers, it's essential to understand that these animals are not typically aggressive towards bees unless provoked. However, if a badger is determined to investigate a hive, it can cause significant damage. To mitigate this risk, some beekeepers recommend strapping the hive down to a heavy base or using "badger-proof" hives filled with rocks or rubble. In terms of preventative measures, beekeepers often rely on their bees' natural defense mechanisms to protect the hive from badgers and other predators. However, during harsh weather conditions or when food is scarce, these defenses may be less effective. The use of hive stands or other protective measures can provide an added layer of security for the bees. I found only one video on youtube showing badger damage but it looks like gent visits his beehives less often than he thinks and therefore how strong a colony must be (looks from the hive that its been empty for quite some time.) Iven he said he'd been using flimsy plastic mesh for the floor. Are there any other reports out there, thats really helped me alot. Many thanks Mark 15.95 Evolution Beekeeping T-Shirt Amazon.co.uk 18.40 20.00 The BBKA Guide to Beekeeping, Second Edition Amazon.co.uk 14.09 18.99 Beekeeping For Dummies (UK Edition) Amazon.co.uk 17.49 Beekeeping Gift For Beekeeping Gift For Beekeeping Gift For Beekeeping Gift For Beekeeping For Dummies (UK Edition) Amazon.co.uk 17.49 Beekeeping Gift For Beekeeping For Dummies (UK Edition) Amazon.co.uk 17.49 Beekeeping For Dummies (UK Edition) Amazon.co.uk 17.49 Beekeeping For Dummies (UK Edition) Amazon.co.uk 17.49 Beekeeping Gift For Beekeeping For Dummies (UK Edition) Amazon.co.uk 17.49 Beekeeping Gift For Beekeeping For Dummies (UK Edition) Amazon.co.uk 17.49 Beekeeping For Dummies (UK Edition) Amazon.co.uk 17.49 Beekeeping Gift For Beekeeping For Dummies (UK Edition) Amazon.co.uk 17.49 Beekeeping Gift For Beekeeping Gift For Beekeeping For Dummies (UK Edition) Amazon.co.uk 17.49 Beekeeping Gift For Beekeeping Gift For Beekeeping Gift For Beekeeping For Dummies (UK Edition) Amazon.co.uk 17.49 Beekeeping Gift For Beekeepin stinging them, nor wasps or bumbles when digging out the nests. I have heard of what HM says but have had no issues myself yet. 1 of my apiaries has everything wild go through it or live in it. Badgers, deer, foxes, frogs, toads, newts, owls, snakes the list goes on. Even saw what appeared to be big cat tracks in the snow last year. Nothing has everything wild go through it or live in it. Badgers, deer, foxes, frogs, toads, newts, owls, snakes the list goes on. touched my hives except one lizard fell out from under the crownboard of 1 hive last week n loads of slugs/earwigs in most hives. Badgers regularly visit the garden and eat rasps and pears and strawberries. :-(They so far have ignored the hives... Badgers dig holes and cr*p in our garden every night. They have not disturbed the hives yet, but I have only had bees this year. p.s. Does anyone know how to discourage badgers without breaking the law? Had a real go. Have since lifted the hives from 9'inch stands to 18 and no repetition. They are completely out of control in our part of the world. No natural predator left now. Had badgers topple hives and make hole in polynuc last year. I solved problem since, trail camera show them actively avoiding the area. S Sent from my iPhone using Tapatalk If they are hungry like they must of been in some areas last spring, then they will destroy hives and nucs to get at the broad and stores inside No trouble here...drought periods quite common in Spring and Autumn and two setts have tracks etc through the main apiary. They massacre chickens though... Sent from my GT-I9100 using Tapatalk 2 No natural predator left now You are right there. Not so many wolves, lynx, bears, Wolverines and eagle owls. Some of those might provide a far bigger threat than our delightful Brock. Not sure what you mean by 'completely out of control in our part of the world, though. Clearly they would reach an equilibrium within the food chain at some point? Man is Brock's worst enemy and there are plenty of those around! Last edited: Jul 28, 2012 p.s. Does anyone know how to discourage badgers without breaking the law?[/QUOTE said: Distroy all fruit bearing trees, fruit, and all plants in your garden and concrete the whole thing. Then use four layers of razer wire from touching the floor to 6ft high. On top of that build a 12 ft wide 6 ft deep moat around the perimeter of your house and fill it with pyrahnas. The only thing is if you don't get planning permission you may be breaking the law. Should stop the badgers.. good luck.. No trouble here...drought periods quite common in Spring and Autumn and two setts have tracks etc through the main apiary. They massacre chickens though... Your Lucky SB, Michael Collier near you needed to put electric fencing all round his mating nucs completely destroyed, some chewed up and spread over a large area, some never found, and a few full size hives attacked as well, very soon put a stop to this problem though. Badgers dig holes and cr*p in our garden every night. They have not disturbed the hives yet, but I have only had bees this year. p.s. Does anyone know how to discourage badgers without breaking the law? A) fencing B) electric fencing Fencing not technically legal. You must not put an obstruction in the way of badgers if you are aware they are using that route. Even if you do they will dig round, under or climb over it. There's only one way to stop it completely and it aint legal. G we could all take our bees to somerset where the cull is going ahead.. soon wont be many left there Page 2 This site may earn a commission from merchant affiliate links, including eBay, Amazon, and others. Fencing not technically legal . You must not put an obstruction in the way of badgers if you are aware they are using that route . Even if you do they will dig round , under or climb over it . There's only one way to stop it completely and it aint legal . G The WCA only relates setts and animals and I don't think anyone would realistically put their hives on a badger 'run' so fencing to isolate their cattle again perfectly legal as long as they don't disturb the sett or harm animals....killing and the effects of purtubation has been left to the Cam moronic government and their lackies! S Sent from my iPhone using Tapatalk Use entrance, allowing bees to passThe article discusses the different sizes and dimensions of beehives, specifically focusing on the entrance reducers or small mesh screens to restrict the hive entrance reducers or small mesh screens to restrict the hive entrance reducers or small mesh screens to restrict the hive entrance reducers or small mesh screens to restrict the hive entrance reducers or small mesh screens to restrict the hive entrance, allowing bees to passThe article discusses the different sizes and dimensions of beehives, specifically focusing on the entrance reducers or small mesh screens to restrict the hive entrance reducers or small mesh screens to restrict the hive entrance reducers or small mesh screens to restrict the hive entrance reducers or small mesh screens to restrict the hive entrance reducers or small mesh screens to restrict the hive entrance reducers or small mesh screens to restrict the hive entrance reducers or small mesh screens to restrict the hive entrance reducers or small mesh screens to restrict the hive entrance reducers or small mesh screens to restrict the hive entrance reducers or small mesh screens to restrict the hive entrance reducers or small mesh screens to reduce the reducers of t enter. The author notes that bees typically create their own access points, so a larger entrance is necessary for badger exclusion. Regarding hive sizes, the article provides various dimensions for popular brands such as National, Busy Bee, Evolution, and Dadant. It also mentions the internal space needed for worker cells, brood bodies, and supers. The author suggests that the number of frames in each box can vary between 11 and 12, depending on the type of hive and manufacturer. They also provide conversion guidelines from inches to metric measurements. Some users have asked about hive sizes and quantities of bees, and the author mentions that a typical National hive holds around 50,000 bees. The internal dimension of a National box should be 372mm, which includes the bottom bar length and two beespaces. This is calculated by adding the bottom bar length (356mm) to twice the beespace (2 x 8mm). The other important internal dimension is 424mm, which will fit 12 x 35mm top bars with a 4mm spare, resulting in a tight fit that may require additional moisture and propolis build-up. With 11 frames, there is 39mm remaining space, making a dummy board useful for inspection and replacement. Using standard materials such as 12mm door stop material and 6mm plywood, frame feeders can be created to hold approximately 1 liter of feed. These also serve as dummy boards to facilitate inspections and replacements. The design allows for two frames to fit in the box with eleven frames if needed. The main difference between the National 14x12 bb (1/2 in) and standard bb (3/8 in) lies in the bee space provided, requiring consideration of beespace to avoid propolis buildup.can you send that pdf file again i would like the plans to build a hive but the pdf won't open. kind regards and thanks barry ###ARTICLEUsing Box Types for Beekeeping. A Debate About Efficiency and ConvenienceWhen it comes to beekeeping, the type of box used can greatly impact efficiency and convenience. The original National Standard (BNS) is often criticized for its inefficiency compared to 70,300 in a Commercial. This raises questions about why people still use BNS. Adding a prolific strain like Buckfast or Italian bees can lead to overcrowding and even loss of the queen if not managed properly. From my experience, I find BNS outdated and inefficient due to its design wastage and limited space utilization. The original National hive was designed to accommodate local bee colonies but has since been modified for wartime wood shortages, resulting in a thinner build with reduced space for brood. I transitioned from prolific bees to Dadants, which I now believe are better suited for large-scale operations. However, retooling to a different type of hive can be costly, and it's essential to consider the investment before making a change. When selecting a new hive type, options include Dadant (square 12 frame), Langstroth (industry standard), Warre, Layens, Perone, and Jackson Horizontal Hive. While each has its advantages, some may not be necessary for every beekeeper. The key takeaway is that bees thrive in various types of boxes and wall gaps. What matters most is the ease of nursing and providing adequate space for brood. Dadant, while initially thought to offer benefits, doesn't significantly outperform Langstroth in practice. Many professionals prefer medium boxes due to their lighter weight, making them easier to handle. In fact, running jumbo Langstroths can accommodate a significant number of bees without the need for multiple brood boxes.

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