

ADOPT-A-HIVE

Quarter 1 - 2020

Welcome to the spring of 2020! We've moved your adopted beehive out into the main area of our apiary (where beekeepers keep their hives) and the bees inside are **absolutely thriving**.

One of the most important considerations for the continued success of your adopted hive is where it's situated. If the hive doesn't have the right setup, **it makes it much harder for the bees to be productive** throughout the season. The wrong setup could even make it difficult for them to survive.

So what do we look for when determining the right location? A good apiary should provide the bees with access to the following:

- Sufficient access to both **sunlight** and **shade**
- Plenty of **water** (bees are just like any other animal; they need to drink)
- Protection from winds that can make it hard for the bees to land
- Elevated platform to sit on for proper **ventilation**
- Easy access for the beekeeper

With our apiary, we've ensured that your bees have access to all of these **critical features** so they have the best chances to survive and flourish.

Did you know? Honey bee swarms can look menacing but despite appearances, swarming is when honey bees are **at their most docile**. They are simply looking for a new home. If you find a swarm of bees, **have a local beekeeper safely remove them** instead of spraying!

Our apiary is situated in an area that has **excellent** wind protection as well as plentiful opportunities for sun and shade to give your bees maximum protection. Next, your adopted hive is placed securely on a wooden pallet that provides great ventilation throughout the warm summer days.

“Pollinators are what ecologists call keystone species... an arch has a keystone. It's the one stone that keeps the two halves of the arch together...If you remove the keystone, the whole arch collapses.”

Lastly, there are multiple ways your adopted bees can get access to water including our sprinkler system, nearby flood irrigation, and the occasional honey bee watering dish.

With all of these logistics accounted for, your bees are now **focused on being productive**: building up beeswax, foraging for nectar, laying eggs to build up the future generations of the colony (queen bee only), attending to the needs of the hive, and storing as much honey as possible for the winter months.

Here's to a great summer season for your adopted beehive!

- MAY BERENBAUM, ENTOMOLOGIST