

Welcome!

Congratulations of the purchase of your new Top Bar beehive! You're one step closer to becoming a real beekeeper! Top Bar beehives are uniquely designed to allow for frameless beehive colonies, much like what bees build in their natural habitat. Bees building a colony in a Top Bar hive build their combs on the removable Top Bars. Not only is this how bees build their comb in nature but it also allows for the beekeeper to easily work the hive with minimal disruption or interference to the colony.

This Top Bar hive includes a large viewing window that will allow you to watch your hive grow and thrive! This hive also includes a removable bottom board that covers the screen. This can be removed during the summer months for additional ventilation and re-installed during the winter months to keep the bees warm. This is also useful for cleaning out debris, should any accumulate.

Your new Top Bar hive includes 10 Top Bars and a Follower Board. Your Follower Board is used to limit the size of the hive the bees have to build in and protect while they grow their colony. As the hive grows and builds new comb you should expand the hive and you can purchase additional Top Bars to expand outwards.

Setting up Your Hive:

Your hive should be placed so the opening is facing the southeast so the morning sun hits the hive. You should also place it somewhere that will allow you access to work the bees when necessary somewhere with good ventilation. You will also want to place it somewhere with ample sunlight but some shade is ideal as well. Lastly, you will want to make sure there is some type of water source nearby.



Starting a Hive:

Most colonies are started with a "Package" of bees that can be purchased from local apiaries or other suppliers (R Weaver, Bee Weaver, Round Rock Honey, etc.). You can also split a hive and purchase a Queen or catch a swarmed colony. A Package of bees is an artificial swarm. It is usually picked up or delivered in a small screened box. The wood and screen container holds ~3lbs of worker bees (approximately 10,000 bees), and, in her own wooden cage, there is a marked Queen. There should also be a can of bee-feed in tin container in the box, which will sustain the bees while they become accustomed to their new home.

Installing your new bee Package requires some attention to detail but there are many resources available to help. Most apiaries will provide detailed instructions. One website that does a good job explaining the process can be found here: <https://www.beverlybees.com/how-to-install-package-bees-in-a-top-bar-hive/>

We have found the following installation tips and tricks to be helpful:

- Rub bee wax on the top bar ridge prior to installation to facilitate rapid comb building
- Plug all but one or two of the entrance holes until the hive is stabilized and growing
- Do not open or disturb the hive for approximately 72 hours after installation

For more information please visit www.lindfamilyfarm.com or email us a sales@lindfamilyfarm.com