

# How We Get Our Honey



Thistle Creek Honey Company

# *Getting Bees*



First, we purchase a “package” of honey bees. This includes a single queen bee and about 3 pounds of worker bees.

# *Installing the Bees*



Then we “hive” the package into their new home. This is a Langstroth style hive that is basically a wooden box with 10 removable slats that the bees build comb on.

## *First Year*



The honey bees spend their first year establishing their colony. They build wax comb to hold their new brood bees plus their stores of pollen and honey.

# *Over-Wintering*



In their first year, we usually don't harvest any of their honey as the bees collect just enough honey to get them through the winter. They typically need around 70 pounds of honey stored in their hive to survive the winter.

## *Second Spring*



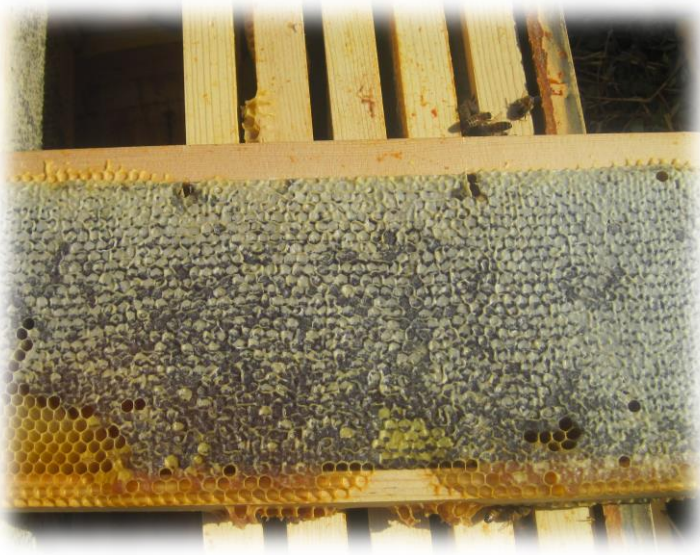
Early in the spring, the colony starts laying lots of eggs to expand the colony in preparation for all the spring flowers.

## *Spring Foraging*



The colony, fully established with new worker bees, sends them across 16-plus square miles to collect pollen and nectar from flowers.

## *Curing*



The nectar is stored in wax combs in the hive. The bees fan the combs to remove water from the nectar so that it becomes concentrated nectar, known as honey. Once enough water has evaporated so that the honey won't ferment, the bees cap the comb with wax to store it for the coming winter.



# Harvesting



We take the frames of honey from the hive, but leave enough for them to get through the winter. We then crush the comb to release the honey from the capped comb, strain it to remove the wax and then bottle it.



## *Thistle Creek Honey Company*

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