

BEST BEES

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BEEKEEPING SERVICES

Fact Sheet

— Bee species were officially added to the list of endangered species in October 2016. Yet all bees are integral to the survival of our planet's life. They pollinate over 70 fruit and vegetable crops that we rely on and thus improve and stabilize our food system.

— The United States lost 44% of all honey bee hives from 2015-2016. The absence of these bees has dramatic consequences of food production, the economy, and environmental sustainability.

— Disease, pesticides, and habitat loss are attributing to colony loss and the death of honey bees at an alarming rate around the world. This decline is one of the single greatest threats to our natural environment today.



— Honey bees will fly over three miles to gather pollen and nectar from flowering plants and trees which they bring back to the hive to make honey.

— Honey is typically harvested twice a year - Spring and Fall, but the weather and extent of flower blooming dictates honey production.

— Honey bees keep their hive at 90F year-round, even in the winter, using their body heat.

— If the air temperature is more than 47F or so, honey bees will actively seek pollen and nectar and make honey.
If the air temperature is below 47F or so, honey bees will stay inside the hive and eat the honey as their primary food source.

— Honey bees only live one month in the summer and three to four months in the winter, while the queen bee lives several years. The short summer life is due to physical exhaustion from the intense work of gathering pollen and nectar which also damages their wings.

— Urban beekeeping bolsters the population and health of honey bees and directly impacts the productivity of neighborhood gardens as each beehive typically supports 50,000+ bees.

— Honey bees have no problem thriving in cities. They fly to rooftops, gardens, and weeds alike. They have no problems with urban pollution, generators, antennas, window washers or other equipment.

— Honey bees are very passive and will not sting unless injured or provoked. Nearly all so-called "bee stings" are from yellow jackets, wasps and hornets, none of which are honey bees.

Urban bee hives produce more honey than suburban or rural hives, seemingly due to diverse plants in cities compared to monoculture farmland.



Top: Two honey bees enjoying split honey and honey comb

Left: Beekeeper opening a custom painted bee hive

Bottom: Beekeeper inspecting a frame of honey and pollen stores



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR COMPLETE BEEKEEPING SERVICES, CALL OR EMAIL US AT 617.445.2322 OR INFO@BESTBEES.COM