



The Managed Mentoring Program on getting started in beekeeping.

Managed Mentoring



Managed Mentoring

Recommendation on Beekeeping Styles

Lesson | Beekeeping Styles



What is Covered in this Lesson

Beekeeping Styles

Equipment Choices

Beekeeping Management Styles

Bees are Livestock

Addressing Treatment Free

Alternative Langstroth Formats



Equipment and Styles

Acknowledging the equipment and style choices of this program



Defining a Style

Definition

Style: a manner of doing something

□ Beekeeping Styles

- *There are many options for the style in which you keep bees.*
- *Two factors tend to dominate the discussion:*
 - Type of Equipment used
 - Type of Management Applied
- *Given this is a beginner focused instruction this guidance will follow the most common practices which will be overviewed.*



Equipment Choice

Equipment Choices Vary

Langstroth Hives are the Norm

- **There are many types of equipment to choose**
 - Langstroth, Top Bar, Warre, Horizontal Langstroth Formats, Layens Hives, Flow hives, and more.
- **New Beekeepers come upon choices**
 - Research about getting started yields a diversity of ideas...
 - *Beekeeping Styles in the mainstream vary and it is not uncommon for a beginner to think to start with something different.*



Equipment Choice

Making the case to go with Langstroth

- **Consider this line of thinking**
 - Beekeeping requires a certain know how.
 - *It is not too unusual for new beekeepers to experience failure in early years.*
 - There is a lot to know, and many pitfalls to avoid.
 - Langstroth hives are the most used hives in the world.
 - *The ubiquity of Langstroth hive use means that there is a readily available expertise for how to use them.*
 - In fact, much of the core beekeeping instruction assumes you are using Langstroth.
 - *Fellow beekeepers will know how to use Langstroth hives.*
 - Other form factors are considered niche and instruction is usually supported through dedicated communities



Equipment Choice

Making the case to go with Langstroth

- **This instruction plan assumes Langstroth**
 - The truth is we are versed in hives other than Langstroth
 - *But,... pragmatically we could not provide the breadth of instruction to teach varying formats in this beginner offering*
 - Avoiding Confusion: Trying to teach alternative formats, that employ different management practices, would lead to confusion and be a distraction
 - Recommendation
 - *We like other kinds of hives, but we still assume that it is best to learn the craft with Langstroth boxes.*
 - Even if you want to use other equipment, we recommend that you learn beekeeping and biology on Langstroth equipment
 - Once you have beekeeping acumen; then go alternative.



What if you are 'still' not going with Langstroth hives?

- ❑ Maybe you already have other equipment?
 - *You can consider tailored instruction elsewhere, but you are welcome to follow along here for a base overview.*
 - Much of beekeeping is about biology and management practices.
 - Use this information, and supplement it with other resources that provide direction instruction for the equipment you use.
 - *ALTERNATIVE? Hold your equipment, purchase Langstroth gear, and then come back to it in time.*
 - If beekeeping is something you learn to love, then there will time in the future to experiment with alternative hive equipment and you stand to have greater success with it once you have some baseline experience.



Management Styles

There are a wide range of ways to manage colonies

- **Management Styles are widespread**
 - Beekeepers have evolved to have dozens of beekeeping management styles.
 - Some have been lost to time and others are still in widespread use.

- **In the US and abroad, this is what you will see**
 - Mainstream Approaches:
 - *Treatment Beekeeping, Treatment-Free beekeeping*
 - Other Alternative Examples:
 - *Biodynamic, Minimal intervention, Horizontal Hive, Straw Basket Formats, etc.*



Management Styles

There are a wide range of ways to manage colonies

- **We Advise to take a Proactive Management approach**
 - The Treatment Management is the Predominant Form
 - *It could be speculated that treatment style beekeeping is more widespread because of commercial practices.*
 - Most commercial beekeepers look after their hives through treatment management approaches and hobbyist beekeeping has followed suit.
 - This instruction program follows the mantra that bees are livestock and as such proactive management is followed.



Livestock

Bees as Livestock

■ Mankind and Bees

- The two most common activities in beekeeping (commercial) are:
 - *Use of bees for pollination*
 - *Use of honeybees for honey production.*
 - *Interpreting the definition this fits the bill for 'labor' and for deriving 'commodities.'*
- While bees are not domesticated in the traditional sense, beekeepers take on responsibility for their stewardship.
 - *As such, this program will instruct to actively manage a colony.*
 - This includes monitoring and preventative care, including proactive treatment of Varroa Mites.

Definition

Livestock:

Domesticated animals raised in an agricultural setting to produce labor and commodities



Management Styles

Proactive Management Style Approach

- **Bees as livestock**
 - While bees are not domesticated in the traditional sense, beekeepers take on responsibility for their stewardship.
 - *As such, this program will provide instruction to actively manage the colony by conventional standards.*
 - *This includes monitoring and preventative care following conventional guidance.*
 - Key to preventive care is management of Varroa Mites.
 - Swarm Control
 - *Especially in NJ, the US state with the highest density of residents, swarm prevention is highly recommended.*



A word on the Treatment-Free Style

A quick aside about being Treatment-Free

■ Why not advocate for Treatment Free?

- All beekeepers would agree that it would be desirable not to have to treat bee colonies.
 - *Treating bees is costly and requires effort.*
- Looking at it objectively...
 - *There is a reasonable argument that things would have been better served if this was the predominant choice from the beginning.*
 - The reality is, it was not the path chosen. Norms have developed that have made the proactive treatment approach more conventional.

Terminology

Treatment Free:
keeping honeybees without treatments; especially as that relates to varroa mites



Natural Approaches

Essential Oils

- **Natural Products for Mites**
 - There are several mainstream natural products in the marketplace. Apiguard is made from Thymol, a derivative of Thyme.
 - Some will advocate that natural oils, also known as essential oils are a good way to go
 - *With the exception of what has been registered, **essential oils** are a relatively unknown when it comes to treating bees.*
 - The pureness of the products available to beekeepers, the mechanisms of action (meaning how they actually work), and other concerns are just not established with enough rigor to know what to use and how to use this class of oils
 - Technically if it is not in a beehive, it is defined by most as a treatment



A different path to treatment-free

- **Working toward treatment free approach**
 - A recent approach for beekeeping practices suggests a pseudo treatment-free approach.
 - *Monitor each hive, and only treat those that warrant.*
 - *Breed new colonies only from those that demonstrate resistance to Varroa Mites.*
 - Some of these management practices will be discussed in this program.
 - *To be fair, true zealots of the treatment-free approach take issue with this ideology*
 - *This is a topic for a later discussion.*
 - Simply restating the style, this program will advocate for monitoring and treating when warranted.



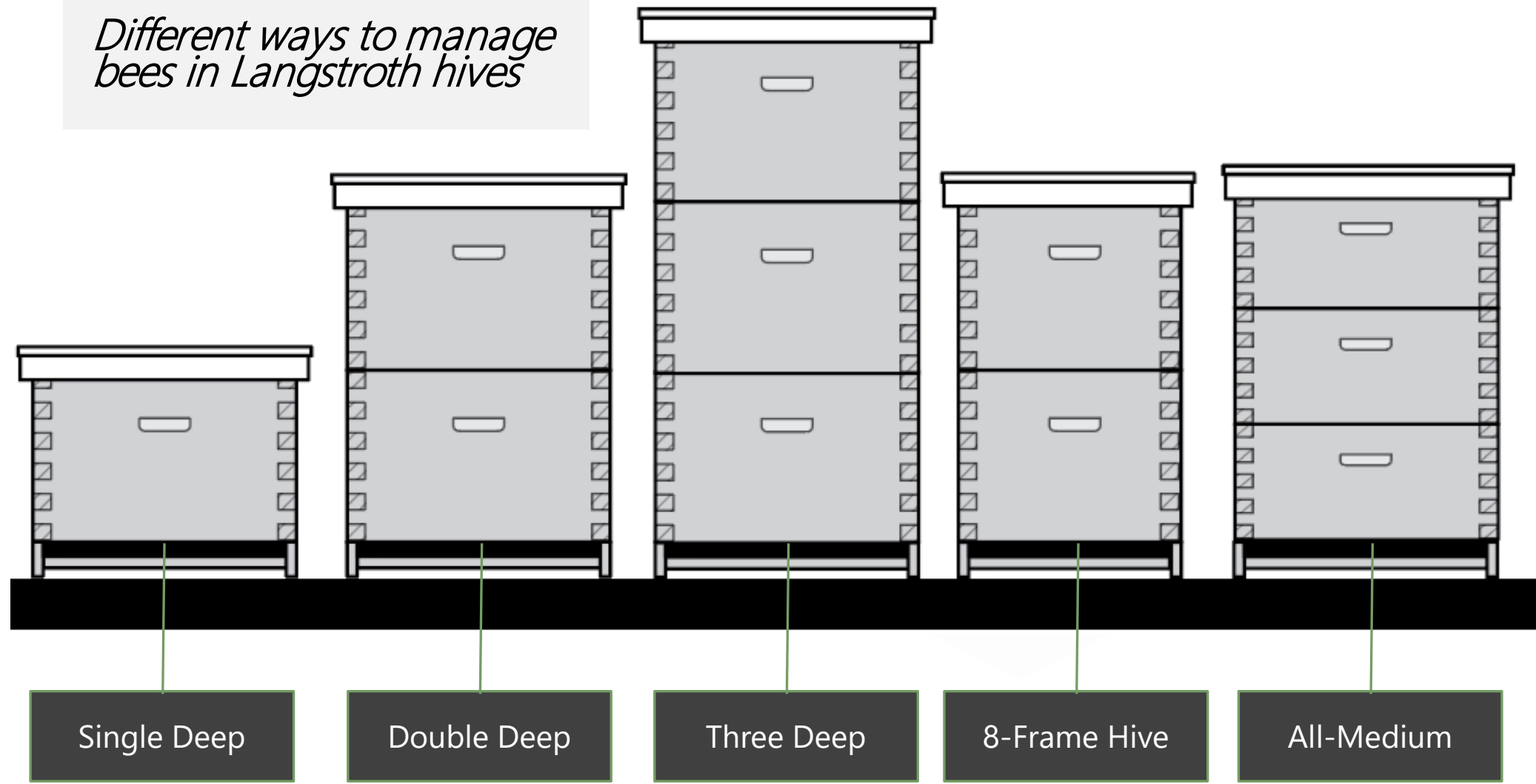
Langstroth related hives

- **Langstroth “like” hives**
 - One defining characteristic of a Langstroth hive is its dimensions.
 - *The size of the box directly influences the size of the frames within.*
 - *There are some alternative hive configurations that borrow liberally from the Langstroth management style while employing alternative methods.*
 - Two examples are:
 - The Flow Hive with its interior plastic frames, sitting in or on a Langstroth box.
 - Langstroth boxes made from Polystyrene materials.
 - *Where feasible, some of these alternatives may be covered or reviewed as part of this program.*



Many management styles have emerged

Different ways to manage bees in Langstroth hives



Single Deep

Double Deep

Three Deep

8-Frame Hive

All-Medium



Management Styles

There are a wide range of ways to manage colonies

- **Alternative Management Styles**
 - Biodynamic, Minimal Intervention
 - *Providing bees with a suitable environment in which they can develop colonies without external intervention.*
 - *Stewards rather than keepers or havers of bees.*
 - Horizontal Hive
 - *Top Bar, Layens, and Horizontal Langstroth are some examples.*
 - Sun Hive, Straw Basket Formats (Skeps)
 - *iconic representations of beekeeping with domed shaped containers, often in the form of baskets made of straw or dried grass*



Final Word about styles

- **Staying Mainstream**
 - It is practical for a beginner track to stay with the most conventional styles of beekeeping.
 - *We appreciate the experience one gains when implementing different styles.*
 - *However, we suggest you stay with us and in time, if it moves you, branch out.*
 - Having a leg up on a solid plan provides confidence and helps you develop a good baseline.
 - Working with support sets you up for success and a more enjoyable experience.



Closing Comments

- **Customary Close**
 - Where we stand, where we are going...
 - *This lesson closes out the exploration of different beekeeping styles.*
 - *Our next topic moves to being a good neighbor while keeping bees:*
 - The obligation to be **Be a Good Neighbor**
 - A primer for **Adherence to Regulations**
 - Recommendations for your **Apiary Design**
 - Specific guidance on **Hive Placement**



Q&A

- **What Questions did we not anticipate?**
 - If you have feedback, you can leave a constructive comment; but be nice.
 - You could also send an email to comments@managedmentoring.com
 - *Please refer to this video in the subject so we know what the reference is.*



