

The Golden Hive Pre-Christmas Special £350

The story of the making of the Golden Hive.

Matt Summerville of Beekindhives designed this hive so that the bee has a more natural habitat and that monitoring the health of the bee can be carried out without disturbance. Under licence, Leyhill Prison in Gloucestershire is making the hives. Prisoners benefit by improving their carpentry skills and are paid. A royalty is paid to Matt and all profit from the sale of each hive goes to Bees for Development Ghana, BuzzClub.

See <http://www.beesfordevelopment.org/partner-organisations/ghana/what-we-do/buzz-club-ghana/>

This creates huge benefits to many parties, but mainly the bees.

The product

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The hive can be collected from Woodchester GL5 5HR or delivered at cost.

It will come fully assembled with the exception of the legs. These are easily screwed on.

The hive comes fully insulated with quilt box, shavings, hessian top cloth, frames and roof.

The external softwood is untreated ready for you to treat and decorate.

Specification of the hive box:- 18mm softwood outer skin, 30mm cork insulation and 10mm inner skin of sawn softwood.

How to use the Hive

When siting the hive consideration should be given to how it is orientated so the bees do not fly across the paths of humans or animals. Ideally the flight holes should receive early morning and afternoon sun.

Inspection of the bees can be carried out from below the hive by releasing the bottom panels and looking up in order to see the growth of the comb. Keeping the panels level will also allow an inspection for mite drop and other debris.

The size of the brood can be monitored from above, by feeling the warmth under the shavings in the quilt box.

Below the quilt box is fitted a hessian cloth cover.

It is only ever necessary to open the hive and remove frames if there is a concern over the bee's health or if you wish to share some honey.

Honey should only be extracted when all the frames are full and then only remove 2 or 3 frames of honey leaving the rest for the bee.

The benefit to the bees

Minimal interference causes less stress, which in turn results in healthier bees. The insulation provides a warmer and more constant temperature that reduces the mite level and work load for the bee in regulating the hive temperature.

Bees

During the spring and early summer we can provide a swarm settled on frames to slot into your Golden Hive for £100 collected. This is of course subject to how many swarms are available. Alternatively, if you collect a swarm you can run it in from the ground through an open bottom panel. A wondrous procedure to observe!

Contact Peter Lead 07768881950 or peterdawnlead@aol.com



A Golden Hive simply painted. The legs have been treated with wood preservative, the roof with beeswax and the box with bee friendly paint



Inside the Golden Hive



A frame full of bees and brood