

2018 Beekeeping Classes

Sources of Supply

Honeybees

Package Bees

Generally, suppliers of package bees no longer ship bees to your location. The following suppliers will ship to you or arrangements have been made for “nearby” pickup points.

Harvest Lane Honey (Utah)—[order online through **Tractor Supply**; web link: <https://www.tractorsupply.com>, customer service telephone: (877) 718-6750], delivery is by UPS overnight air direct to the address you provide; 3# package with queen for \$179.99; shipping between mid-April and mid-May; Italian and Carniolan bee strains from California are offered. Note: 2018 is apparently the first year Tractor Supply is selling bees so they seem to be working out a few kinks; early indications are that sales may be much heavier than expected which may mean they will sell out early. They are recommending that orders be placed before March 5.

R Beeweaver (Texas), web site: beeweaver.com—**Roswell Seed**, (575) 622-7701, is the single New Mexico pickup point for R Beeweaver 3# packages; pickup must be made on April 7 in Roswell, call Roswell Seed for specifics; price is \$225; the queen will be marked and clipped, check Beeweaver’s web site for details on the characteristics of their bee strain; stock is limited so call with an order as early as you can.

Olivares (California), web site: ohbees.com—Craig Norlander, operator of **Papa Bear’s Honey** [<http://papabearshoney.com>, (505) 281-7851] in Edgewood, NM has purchased a number of 4# packages from Olivares and is offering them for resale at \$150 price; he will bring them to pickup points in NM in mid-April (exact pickup days to be determined), the closest points near us are Bosque Farms and Edgewood; Craig recommends pickup in Bosque Farms during the day as pickups in Edgewood would be in the late afternoon and evening; the bee strain is a hybrid developed from Canadian stock, saskatraz, reputed to be mite tolerant (see details at the web links given); it is best to communicate with Craig through his web site. This seems to be a very good value!

Zia Queenbee Co., web site: <http://ziaqueenbees.com>, telephone: (505) 929-8080--is offering 3# packages for \$200 to be picked up in early May at either Truchas or Valarde, NM; the bees which are from a northern California producer will be paired with a NM (Zia Queenbee) bred queen selected from survivor stock and chemical free colonies with a longevity trait; refer to the web site to find out more about their queen rearing and breeding; Mark Spitzig who is the contact person prefers to be reached by telephone or text message. Zia will not be selling nucs this year.

Mated Queen Bees

When you need to replace your queen bees, most vendors will ship queen bees to you via UPS overnight air service. However, there is a definite season for mated queen availability, usually May through July. You are advised to place your order very early (December or January). There are several

suppliers you can find by way of an internet search. The two identified below are ones that I have personally had business with and can recommend.

C. F. Koehnen and Sons (California), [web site: www.koehnen.com, telephone: (530) 891-5216], Italian and Carniolan bee strains are offered, check their web site for pricing and availability.

Olivares Honeybees (California)--[web link: www.ohbees.com, telephone: (877) 865-0298], Italian and Carniolan bee strains are offered, check their web site for pricing and availability. Note: Olivares also raises queens in Hawaii which are available outside the usual season for USA queen availability; check their web site for details.

Beekeeping Supplies

Again, there are many vendor you can find by doing an internet search. Most of them are far from New Mexico so shipping and delivery are considerations. The vendors listed below have proven reliable over the years. Check out starter kits at the full range suppliers as a way to lessen your startup costs.

Brushy Mountain Bee Farm (North Carolina), web site: brushymountainbeefarm.com, telephone: (800) 233-7929; offering a full line of beekeeping products.

Dadant and Sons (Illinois, with branch in Paris, TX), web site: www.dadant.com, telephone: (877) 632-3268 for Texas branch; offering a full line of beekeeping products.

Kelley Beekeeping (Kentucky), web site: kelleybees.com, telephone: (800) 233-2899; offering a full line of beekeeping products.

Bucko Gloves (Oklahoma), web site: buckogloves.com, telephone: (405) 677-1148; I love their ventilated goat skin beekeeping gloves; they are soft, supple and not as thick as cowhide gloves.

Ultra Breeze (Connecticut), web site: www.ultrabreezesuits.com, telephone: (475) 238-5669; offering ventilated and “stingless” bee suits and jackets. I have not used their products, but I know others who have and think they are the way to go.

Periodicals

A subscription to either of these magazines will keep you up to date.

American Bee Journal, web site: www.americanbeejournal.com, telephone: (217) 847-3324, very comprehensive trade journal covering news, trends and practices. Subscription: 1 year, \$28; 2 years, \$53; 3 years, \$75.

Bee Culture Magazine, web site: www.bee-culture.com, telephone: 800-289-7668, also has comprehensive coverage of beekeeping topics. Subscription for print edition: 1 year, \$25; 2 years, \$48; 3 years, \$69. There is also a digital edition as is an app for android and apple phones and tablets.

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