

Course Outline

Sustainable Urban Beekeeping Certificate | Coordinator: Peggy Harowitz

Spring Management and Hive Inspections (BEEP1002)

Instructor	Brian Campbell
Hours	5.5 Hours – 3 hours in class, 2.5 field experience hours
Grading	Pass/Fail

Course Description

Beekeeping is the art of anticipation, understanding where your bees are, where they are headed and what you can do to aid or redirect their energies. This course covers all the main activities of the season: organic disease and pest control, managing swarms, queen rearing and preparing the bees for honey production; and most importantly, how to anticipate what your bees are going to do.

Getting Starting in Beekeeping and Spring Management are prerequisites or permission from instructor.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Demonstrate how to use a hive tool to open a hive and remove a frame
- Describe how spring management tasks fit into the overall goal of colony health and productivity
- List what needs to be done in the spring, and why and how to complete essential tasks
- Describe why bees swarm and what we can do to prevent swarming
- Write a personalized swarm plan
- Explain the technique of queen rearing
- Recognize how to properly use tools
- Identify what a normal hive is/looks like
- Describe what constitutes normal bee behaviour
- Identify how to spot anomalies and recognize caste members
- Demonstrate the ability to see an egg and how to recognize patterns in brood development
- Provide a checklist of how to do an inspection, and describe what to look for and recognize the importance of the brood area.

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Detailed Course Content,
Topics and Sequence Covered:

Spring Management

Overview of the beekeeper's year
An outline of colony dynamics, population growth and changes in bee behaviour
Major tasks of spring hive management:
 Managing population growth
 Disease and pest management
 Getting the bees ready for honey production
The first inspection of the year: why and what to look for
Disease and pest control techniques
Swarm biology and behaviour
Swarm control
Developing a swarm plan, tools needed
Making more bees
 Splitting hives to control swarming
 Brood breaks for Varroa mite control
 Queen rearing
How to produce honey
Hands on: Using a hive tool to open a hive and remove a frame

Field Experience

The art of beekeeping
Why do hive inspections
A step-by-step approach to inspecting a hive
Disease and pest monitoring
Record keeping
Action plans

Method of Delivery

In class and in the field

Evaluation Criteria
And Grading

Evaluation for this course is on a pass/fail basis.
Field Experience – 50%
Participation - 50%

Reading

Honey Bee Diseases and Pests, 3rd Edition. Canadian Assoc. of Professional Apiculturalists

Instructor Profile

Brian Campbell, the lead instructor, is the founder of Blessed Bee Apiaries and the Bee School. He became immersed in the rich and amazing world of bees while he and his four sons spent many a glorious day observing the curious activities of bees, noticing the bees' consistent patterns, collective activities, and the surprising comparisons to our own human patterns and behaviours. He is a Certified Beemaster and beekeeper, and heavily involved in food security issues in Richmond and the Lower Mainland.

Brian guest lectures for UBC Farm's Practicum in Sustainable Agriculture, for adult education at VanDusen Botanical Gardens in Vancouver, for

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Kwantlen's Richmond Farm School and teaches young people in the city about honeybees as well as native types. He is a former president of the Richmond Beekeepers Association, a member of the Master Gardener Association of BC, Sustainable Gardening and Bee Master to West Coast Seeds, and offers classes in grafting fruit trees, food preserving and other farm skills.