

Course Outline

Sustainable Urban Beekeeping Certificate | Coordinator: Peggy Harowitz

Winterizing Your Hives (BEEP1006)

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

Course Description

Everything we do after the honey harvest is to ensure our bees have all they need to survive the winter and emerge into spring strong and healthy. Many beekeepers fail to make the connection between what is going on in their hives in late summer and when their hives die later in the autumn, during the winter or in early spring. There are clear signs of danger; if you know to look for them, and easy steps to take to help your hives make the transition from autumn to winter and into to spring. Practicum component included.

Prerequisites are spring and summer management or permission of the instructor.

Learning Outcomes

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

- Explain why bees die in the winter
- Identify what they can do to keep their bees alive
- Compare and contrast the benefits of feeding or wrapping their hives
- Describe the threats of robbing, wasps and mice
- Identify where to look for recipes and which ones to use
- Identify changes in bee behaviour and explain colony dynamics
- List pathogen monitoring skills and explain how to reinforce them
- Assess robbing and wasp attacks and explore how to interrupt these behaviours.

BEEP 1006 Course Outline

Detailed Course Content,

Topics and Sequence Covered:

- Changes in bee behavior over winter
- Winter Die-outs as a measure of colony health
- Assessing hive health
- Applying IPM techniques and principles
- Steps to take to ensure winter survival
- Field Experience**
- A hive inspection to assess hive health
- Monitoring with treatment levels established
- Treatment options will be explored

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 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.