



<http://aabees.org>

The Beekeeping Short Course & What will it cost you to keep bees?

There are expenses you should know before you start:

Short Course with Textbook will cost \$75.00. You will have to spend 14 hours to attend 6 sessions and more time to read the textbook. Without preparation you will most likely fail and kill your bees. With preparation you will enjoy your bees and keep them with confidence.

Equipment, Protective Gear, Tools, and Bees may cost \$550.00 for the first hive and gear. An additional hive will cost \$300.00 and is strongly recommended.

You can buy the hives assembled and painted or do that yourself which saves money but takes time.

Commitment and Continued Learning. Beekeeping is similar to having a puppy or kitten. You will have to observe your bees regularly and examine the hive occasionally. In the first year, your bees will need more frequent care to get established and for you to learn. The first months will require feeding sugar syrup every few days for bees to create comb. In general, you will need to support their needs.

The appearance a few years ago of colony collapse disorder brought about increased funding for research. Along with improved tools for scientists and keen observations, knowledge about bees continues to expand. You will want to attend local association meetings, Maryland State Beekeepers Association meetings, read additional books, and subscribe to a beekeeper's magazine.

Take the time to learn about bees and beekeeping in Maryland. You can always get bees next year. You can learn about bees but instead of keeping colonies, you can plant a garden and provide forage for all the pollinators.

Like gardening, good beekeeping requires effort - a little work and lots of KNOWLEDGE.
(George Imirie, Master Beekeeper)