



# Advice For About to be Beekeepers

## Some General Advice

1. “Saving the Bees” doesn’t mean keeping **Honey bees**.
2. Find someone who currently keeps bees and offer to **help** them (trading learning for labor)
3. They may seem like bees you keep in a box, but they are animals you need to **care** for.
4. Join your local bee club and if they offer a beginner bee school, **enroll**. Keep bees for a few years and you’ll be ready for an Intermediate school.
5. Start in the spring with at **least** two colonies.
6. Plan not to **have bees** but to **keep bees**.
7. Expect no honey in your first year; be excited if you get some!
8. Know that keeping bees as a hobby is **expensive**.
9. Keeping **healthy** bees may seem like a huge challenge. For starters, concentrate on what normal and healthy looks like.
10. Once you keep Honey bees, you’ll be keeping **Varroa** mites as well.
11. Know that other beekeepers want you to **succeed**.
12. Build yourself a **support** network. Get a mentor if you can.
13. Read books, magazines; watch videos; learn about bees! **Use your brain**; If a video proclaims, “watch me install my first package,” run!
14. Attend every **open hive** and club meeting you can.
15. Stings happen. For most, it is unpleasant but not terrible. (bee stings may be healthy!)
16. **Learn** about bees!
17. Recognize that as a beekeeper, you are doing **agriculture**. Plans can go out the window at a moment’s notice, and you need to work with what you have.
18. Don’t be afraid to **ask** questions, but don’t expect all the answers always to agree. There are lots of equally valid approaches.
19. Knowing about bees is **cool**! You’ll be sharing knowledge in no time. What’s more, you’ll soon be the neighborhood expert on stinging insects!
20. Welcome to beekeeping; welcome to agriculture. **You got this!**