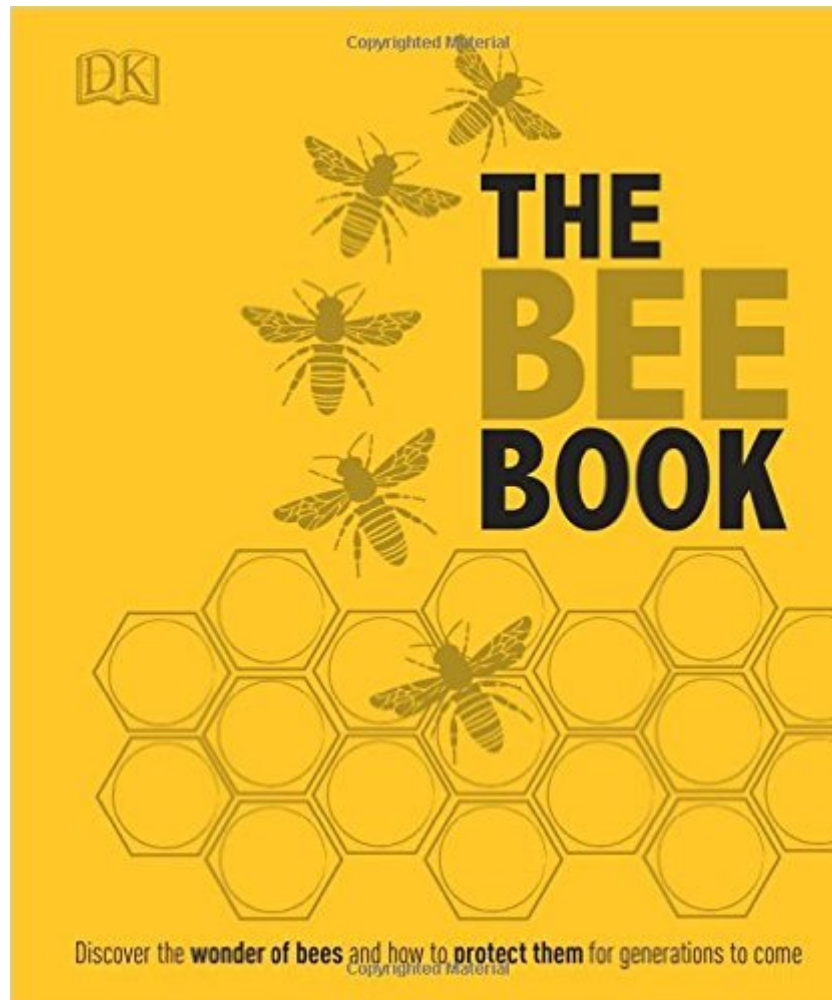


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# The Bee Book



## Synopsis

The Bee Book shows you step-by-step how to create a bee-friendly garden, get started in beekeeping, and harness the power of honey for well-being. Fully illustrated with full-color photographs throughout, this beautiful guide covers everything you need to know to start your own backyard hive, from setup to harvest. Practical beekeeping techniques are explained with clear step-by-step sequences, photos, and diagrams so you'll be prepared to establish your own colony, deal with diseases, collect a swarm, and much more. A comprehensive gardening chapter features planting plans to fill container and border gardens, bee "hotel" and habitat projects, and an at-a-glance flower gallery of bees' favorite plants. The Bee Book also shows you how to harvest honey, beeswax, and propolis from the hive and use these ingredients in 38 recipes for home remedies, beauty treatments, and candle-making. Discover the wonder of bees in nature, in your garden, and in the hive with The Bee Book, lavishly bound in a beautiful gold-foil and texture cover and perfect for gift giving.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: DK; 1st Edition edition (March 1, 2016)

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ISBN-13: 978-1465443830

Product Dimensions: 8 x 1 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (39 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #134,776 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #60 in [Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Insects & Spiders](#) #70 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Landscape](#) #179 in [Books > Science & Math > Agricultural Sciences > Animal Husbandry](#)

Age Range: 5 and up

Grade Level: Kindergarten and up

## Customer Reviews

[View larger](#)    **Honey Bees**    The honey bee colony can be considered a superorganism, with the queen, workers, and drones, constituting the parts of a single entity. At the level of a superorganism, reproduction occurs when a new colony is formed, and this happens through swarming.

**Making Candles** Candle making is an incredibly satisfying aspect of the beekeeper's craft and can be carried out at any time of the year. Well-made beeswax candles burn cleanly, without dripping, and with a beautiful glow. No other type of wax compares. [View larger](#)

**Treasures of the Hive** The transformation of a flower's nectar into golden honey led ancient people to believe honey was one of nature's treasures. Honey and beeswax are highly prized by the beauty industry for their use in creams and lotions, while propolis is made into traditional preparations such as tinctures. [View larger](#)

[View larger](#) [View larger](#) [View larger](#) **The Honey Bee Family** A honey bee colony is divided into three distinct castes: workers, drones, and the queen. [Bee Flowers for Pots](#) Even without a patch of soil, you can still provide food for the bees and attract them to your home by planting bee-friendly flowers in pots. [Obtaining a Bee Colony](#) One of the first questions a beginner will ask is: "Where do I get my bees from?"

Ever since I saw the honeybee hive kept at the Smithsonian Institute Natural History Museum as a child (they have a really cool live bug exhibit), I've dreamed of having a hive of my own. Honeybees are peaceable creatures that live to collect pollen to feed themselves and their offspring, thereby pollinating our crops and making it possible for us to enjoy a variety of fruits and vegetables that would not otherwise grow. Now that the honeybee is facing extinction I think it makes sense--even for urban dwellers--to help as much as practicable to keep the bees alive. THE BEE BOOK is an absolutely beautiful book filled with wisdom and instruction for anyone with an interest in beekeeping or just interested in the species. Marvelously illustrated throughout, this volume explains the role of bees in our ecosystem, their history, and how to create your own apiary for honey or to pollinate your garden. This book tells the reader how to attract bees with the flowers they like best, and how to set up and care for a honeybee hive on your property. I think it is important to understand the biology of bees in order to care for them properly, and THE BEE BOOK explains the way bees live and thrive in order that you may provide for or just appreciate them. I particularly like the section where the reader is shown with text and illustration how to make living spaces for a variety of helpful bees with inexpensive stuff you can pick up at Lowe's or Home Depot. I think my first bee project will be a clay bee house (pg.82) for attracting bees to my garden by providing natural-seeming clay nesting holes in a simple wooden frame. There are photos and gorgeous

watercolor illustrations on nearly every single page that clearly explain the text and are absolutely beautiful to look at. Also, recipes for making honey treats and health balms are shown in detail. I'm not quite ready to set up a hive of my own yet, but, thanks to this book I have already ordered seeds for flowers I will plant this spring to attract bees to my garden. I am also looking forward to completing many of the other easy DIY projects shown for attracting bees before the summer is over. In summary, this is a comprehensive and beautifully illustrated guide to beekeeping and bee appreciation. Five stars!

This is a gorgeous, well researched and laid out coffee table book. Every page is beautifully illustrated with photographs and drawings. Whatever your interest in bees – an insect that humanity depends on for our very survival – you'll find this to be an exceptional resource for your family, and a handsome addition to your library. We're just getting into keeping bees – our first hive was installed yesterday! This morning, there's the busy hum of bees working the garden, and the sight of the girls wiggling into flowers and circling over the hive. We got the Bee Book in order to assist in the preparation and learning process and it's been a huge help. I was able to recount some facts that even our expert bee keepers did not know! If your goal is to rear bees yourself (and there are few ways to better assist life on the planet, given that bees are disappearing by the billions), you'll find a cornucopia of useful information. You'll learn how bees, wasps and ants all emerged from a common ancestor. You'll read about the enormous number of bee species, including stingless bees. You'll find out that our common honey bees are not native after all, but were introduced by European colonists, now found on every continent except Antarctica. You'll be introduced to modern bee keeping methods, types of hives, queens and colonies, the protective clothing and equipment you'll need to care for your bees, to harvesting your honey and wax, and much more. There are chapters on creating a bee-friendly garden, to things you can do with the products of your hives – from candle making to sculptures. You'll learn about bee predators, large and small, and what to do about them. There are recipes for medicine -- everything from acne to colds. You'll learn how to make body butter and balms, scrubs and facial masks, all from the liquid gold and wax your bees provide. It's a wonderful book, chockablock with fascinating and useful information, well written and beautifully illustrated. At a price point under \$17 (with free shipping for Prime members), this is an exceptional value. Highly recommended.

DK is well known for their beautiful picture books - long on pretty and short on detailed information.

The Bee Book is an exception to that rule, it is long on information and just happens to be pretty. This is a complete picture of bees - a general overview, why bees are so important, and their life cycle; incredibly detailed ways to attract bees; keeping bees; and what to do with the fruits of keeping bees - from honey to using the wax. The writing is simple and straightforward. And yet it conveys just about everything you need to know about that particular topic. It is easy to read. Unlike other DK books, this one is not filled with just pictures. The illustrations and photographs are gorgeous, and they serve an important function - illuminate the text. In keeping with the environmentally friendly nature of the subject, the book is printed on thick matte paper with what appears to be soy ink. Most DK books are printed on glossy paper with intense inks. This is a refreshing change. They did a nice job balancing US and UK guidance. The beekeeping section really depends on finding a community of beekeepers to really get a person started. The book emphasizes how critical it is to learn from somebody else. The book then serves as written guidelines for reference. Probably the most surprising of all the chapters was the gardening to attract bees. There are pages and pages of plants that are bee friendly. It is a truly beautiful section. The recipes at the back of the book are also pretty wonderful. Once you become a beekeeper, you'll need to do something with the honey and the wax. I'm happy to see DK finally publish a book that has great content and they used images to make it more accessible.

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