



Home Garden Hive

Congratulations on purchasing a 'Home Garden Hive from Zonda Beneficial's. Having bumblebees in your garden is exciting, and very rewarding in many aspects.

All our hives are fully self-contained with enough sugar syrup for the life of the hive, so there is nothing you need to do except place them suitably.

We have put together a few tips on getting the best out of your hive.



Hive Placement

When the bees first arrive please place them in a quiet cool spot to let them settle. This also helps the bumblebees to re-orientate themselves.

We suggest placing the hive in a sheltered spot out of direct sunlight, to avoid them overheating. Try to elevate the hive so that they are not sitting directly on the ground, as ants can be an issue.



The hive has been designed with a waxed exterior to protect it from the outdoor elements. However we do advise that the hive be given shelter from heavy rain or winds. This could be as simple as a piece of ply over the top or to simply move the hive.



Opening the Hive

At the front of the hive, you will see a Blue Slider. This is the hive door, which allows the bees to be able to enter and exit the hive. Do not stand directly in front of the hive when opening it.

Open the lid and cut the Sellotape then slide the slider to the left so that both holes are showing place the lid on and make sure that the holes can be seen through the cardboard of the lid. Do not remove the small black plastic flap, as this acts as a mechanism to stop the bees from exiting the hive should you need to shut the hive to move it.



Closing the Hive

If you wish to shut the hive or home the bees then move the white slider to the position with only **one** hole showing. This allows the bees to enter the hive but **not** exit. You can leave it in this position for several hours to ensure most of the bees have returned to the hive. You can then push the white slider all the way down so the holes are closed.



Hive Performance

In general, the hive will last between 4-6 weeks. However they can sometimes last much longer depending on the food source available. At this point the queen will have died and her worker bees will begin to die off too. The hive may produce several new queen bumblebees that will leave the hive and look for somewhere suitable to establish their own hive. These queens will hibernate in the close vicinity, where you may find a naturally occurring hive appear early spring.

All of our hives are guaranteed for a minimum of 4 working weeks. If you have any problems with the bees during that time, please notify Zonda immediately, and we will try to rectify the problem.



Frequently Asked Questions

How long will the hive last?

- Please refer to 'Hive Performance' section.

How far will the bumblebees travel from the hive?

- Bumblebees can travel up to a few kilometres away, however they will only do this if they are desperately looking for food. In general bumblebees will go no further than 500 meters from their hive.

How much activity should I expect to see?

- You should expect to see a bumblebee coming and going every 5-10 minutes. Although this can vary. Mornings and late afternoon/evenings there may be more activity. Because bumblebees can carry a lot more pollen than a honeybee, they can stay out for longer periods at a time, so make less frequent trips back to the hive. Bumblebees do not swarm like honeybees do. If you are not seeing a lot of activity please contact us.

What does the hive contain?

- Our bumblebees are 'Bombus terrestris', meaning earth bumblebee. The hive contains the founder Queen, a number of worker bees (depending on the hive size), and a brood or structure of eggs, larvae and pupae.
- The workers (female) are the very small bees, and they will be the ones predominantly foraging and collecting pollen. Some of the workers will remain in the hive to attend to house cleaning duties and to feed the growing eggs within the hive.
- The male bumblebees are slightly bigger than the worker bees and only forage for nectar not pollen (although through the vibrational buzz they naturally create, they can unintentionally pollinate). Interestingly the males do not sting.
- The big fluffy bumblebee will be the Queen, she doesn't generally emerge from the hive while she is laying eggs. There will be only one Queen inside the hive until the point where the hive begins to die off, at this point you may begin to see large newly hatched Queens emerging.

Recycling the Bumblebee Hives.

- Please see the information attached to your e-mail.

