

Keeping Honey Bees

December 4, 2009

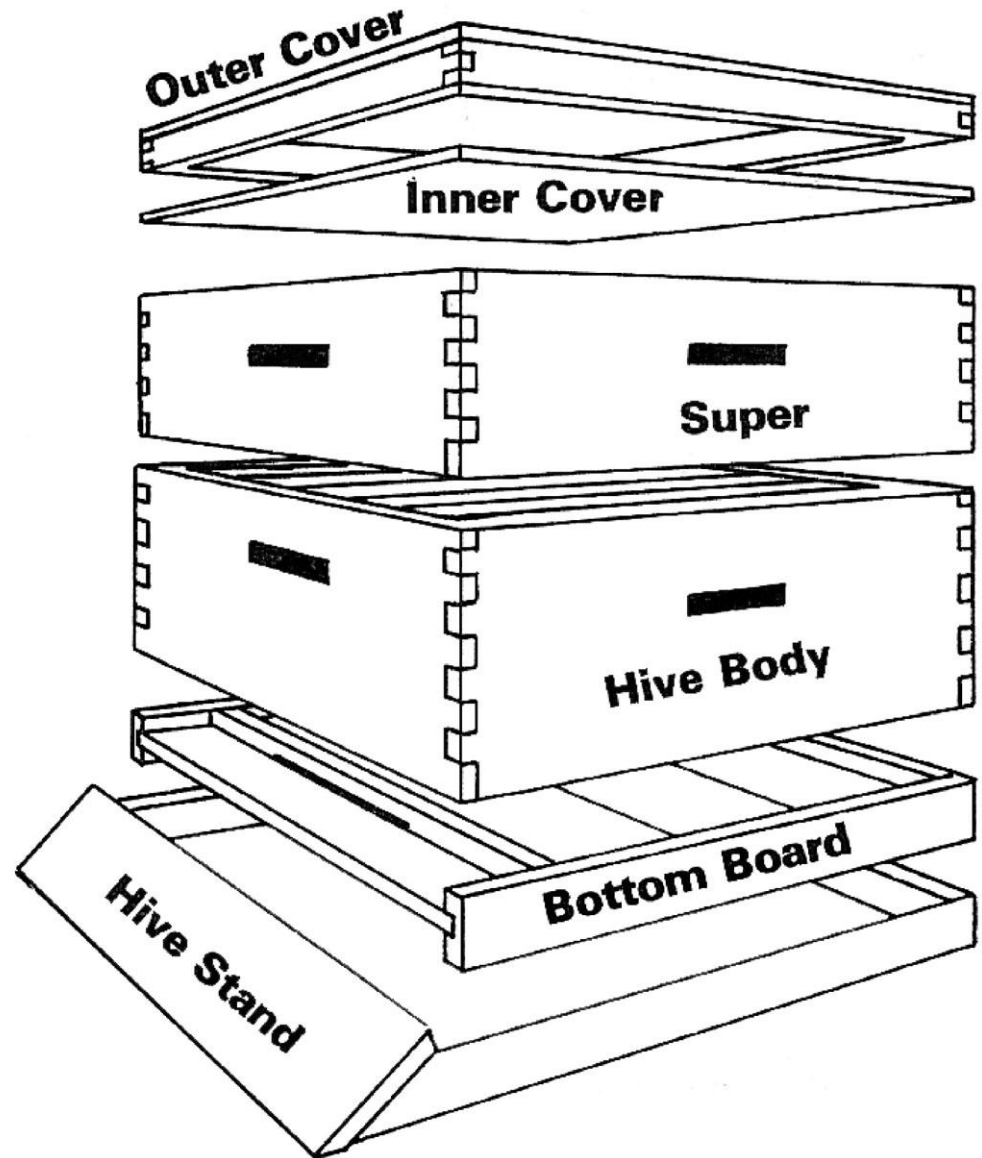
Bennie Quesenberry & Webb Flowers

Equipment and Hive
Location



Standard Hive

The basic hive consists of a variable number of hive bodies, wooden frames to hold comb, a bottom board and a cover.



Hive Body Sizes

Full Depth Hive Body - 9 1/2 ins

Use - primarily as a brood chamber
also honey storage

Medium Depth (Illinois or Dadant depth) - 6 5/8 ins

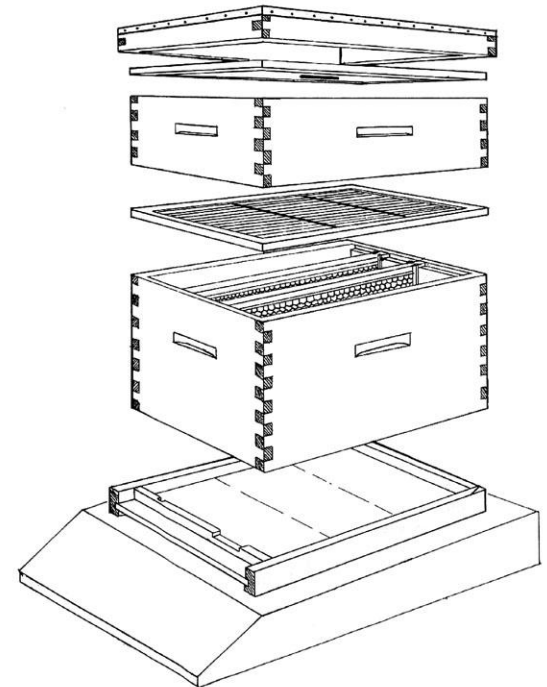
Use - honey super
brood chamber

Shallow Depth - 5 11/16 ins

Use - honey super

Comb Honey Super - 4 11/16 ins

Use - section comb honey



Hives with Supers

Shallow hive body

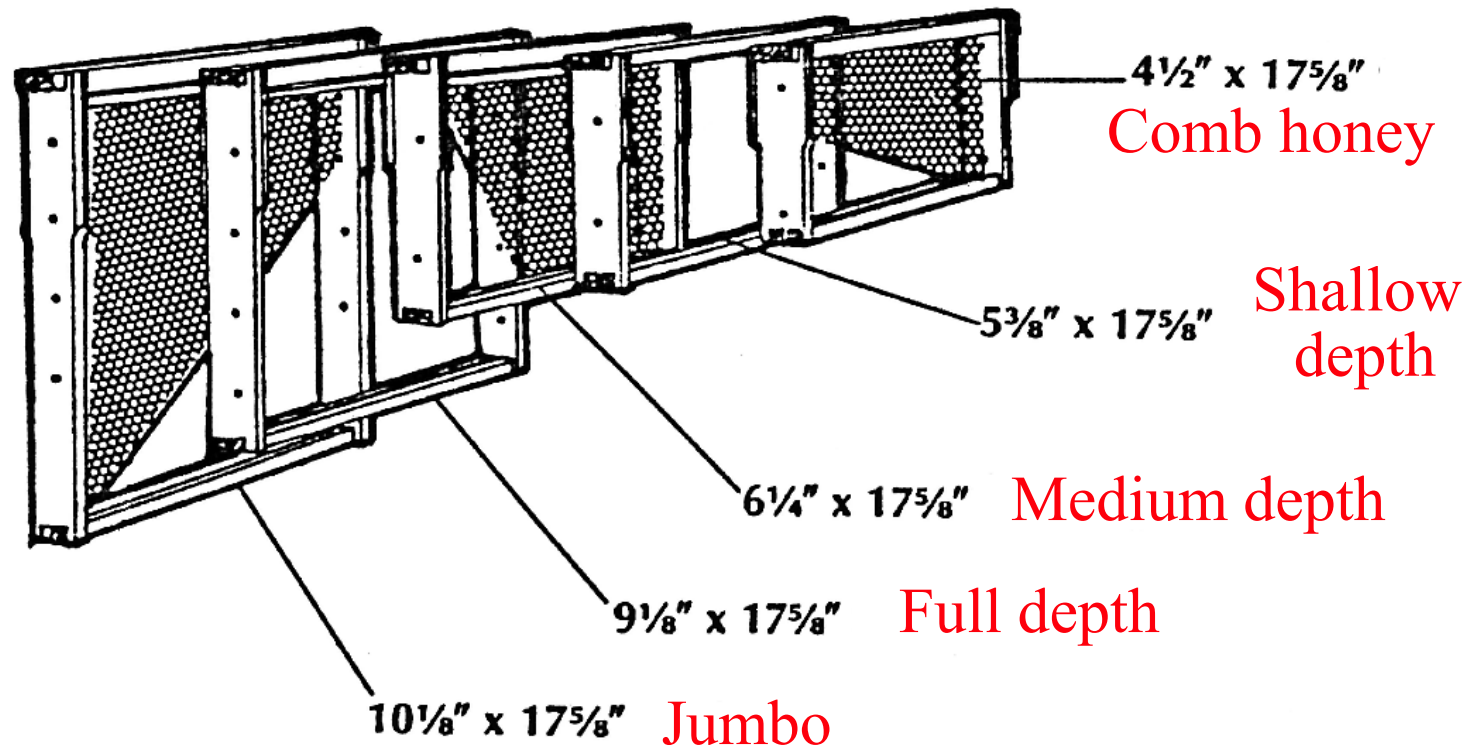
Medium depth hive
bodies

Full depth hive body
(brood chamber)

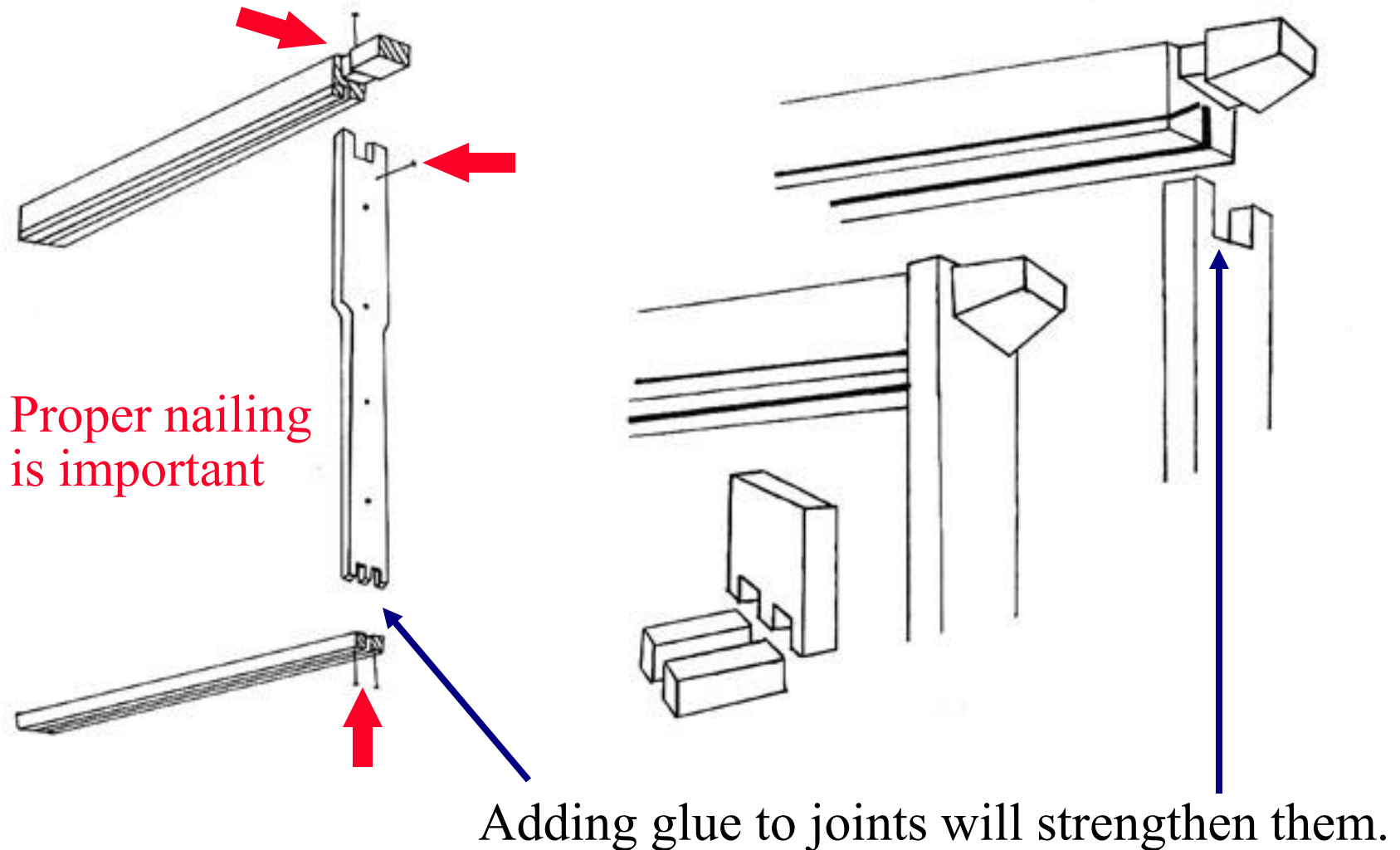


Frames

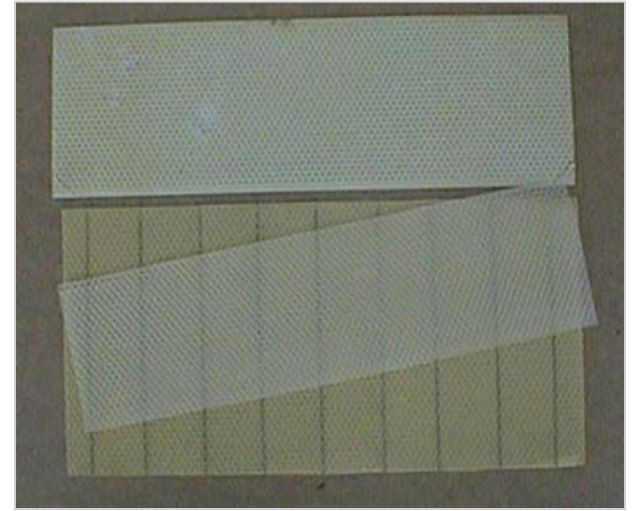
Frames hold the beeswax comb and allow it to be removed and inspected. State law requires that all managed hives have removable combs.



Frame Assembly



Types of Foundation



1. Crimp wired foundation
2. Unwired (2 weights: medium brood and cut comb)
3. Wax coated plastic foundation (Duragilt or Duracomb)
4. Thin surplus foundation (comb honey)
5. Plasticell (molded plastic with beeswax coating)

Other Hive Components

Outer (telescoping) cover

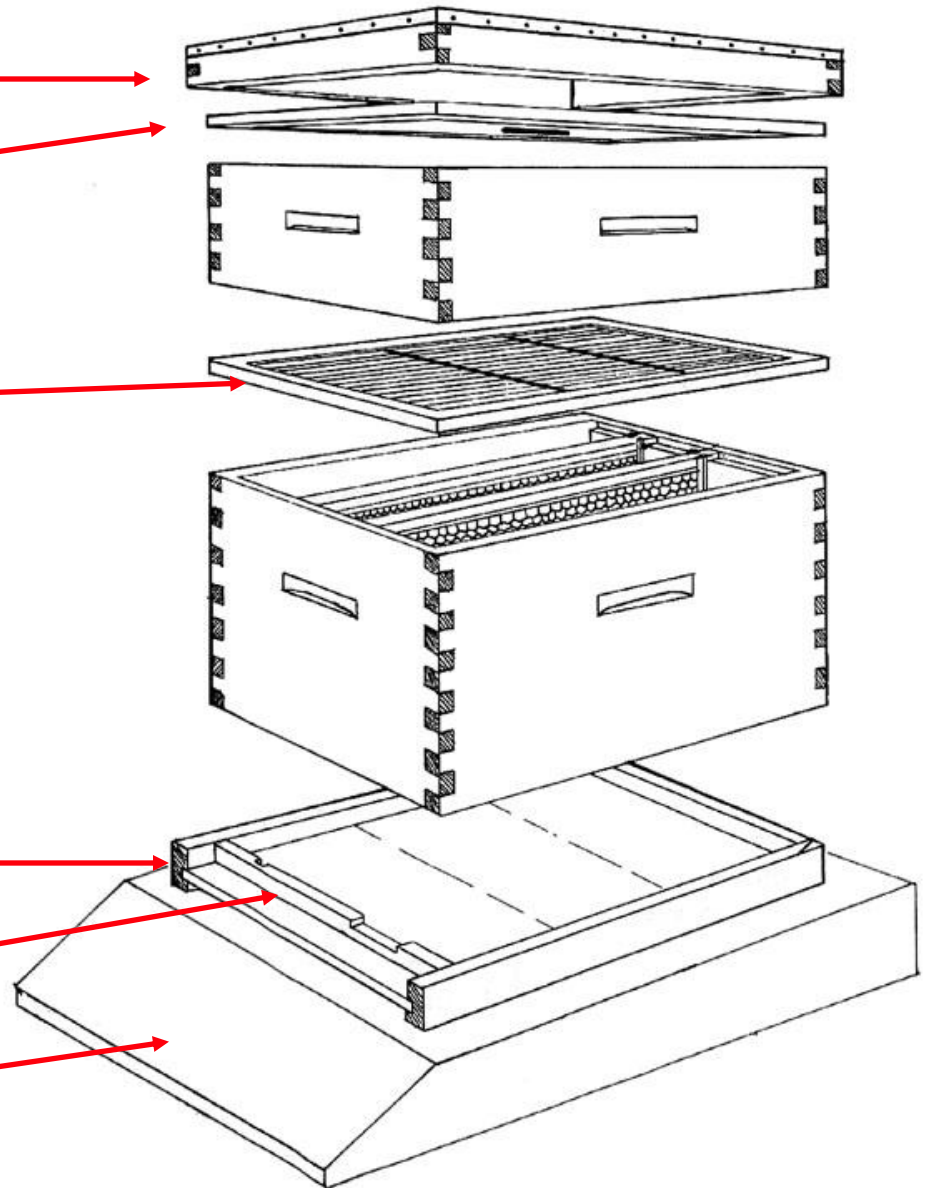
Inner cover

Queen excluder

Bottom board

Entrance reducer

Hive stand



Queen Excluder



A wire, ‘screen-like’ device that is placed between the brood nest and the honey supers to prevent the queen from laying eggs in the supers. The wire spacing allows workers to move through the excluder but not the queen.

Equipment for Protection and Colony Manipulation

1. Clothing - light colored, smooth finish
2. Veil
3. Gloves
4. Smoker
5. Hive tool



Recommended Equipment For Each Hive

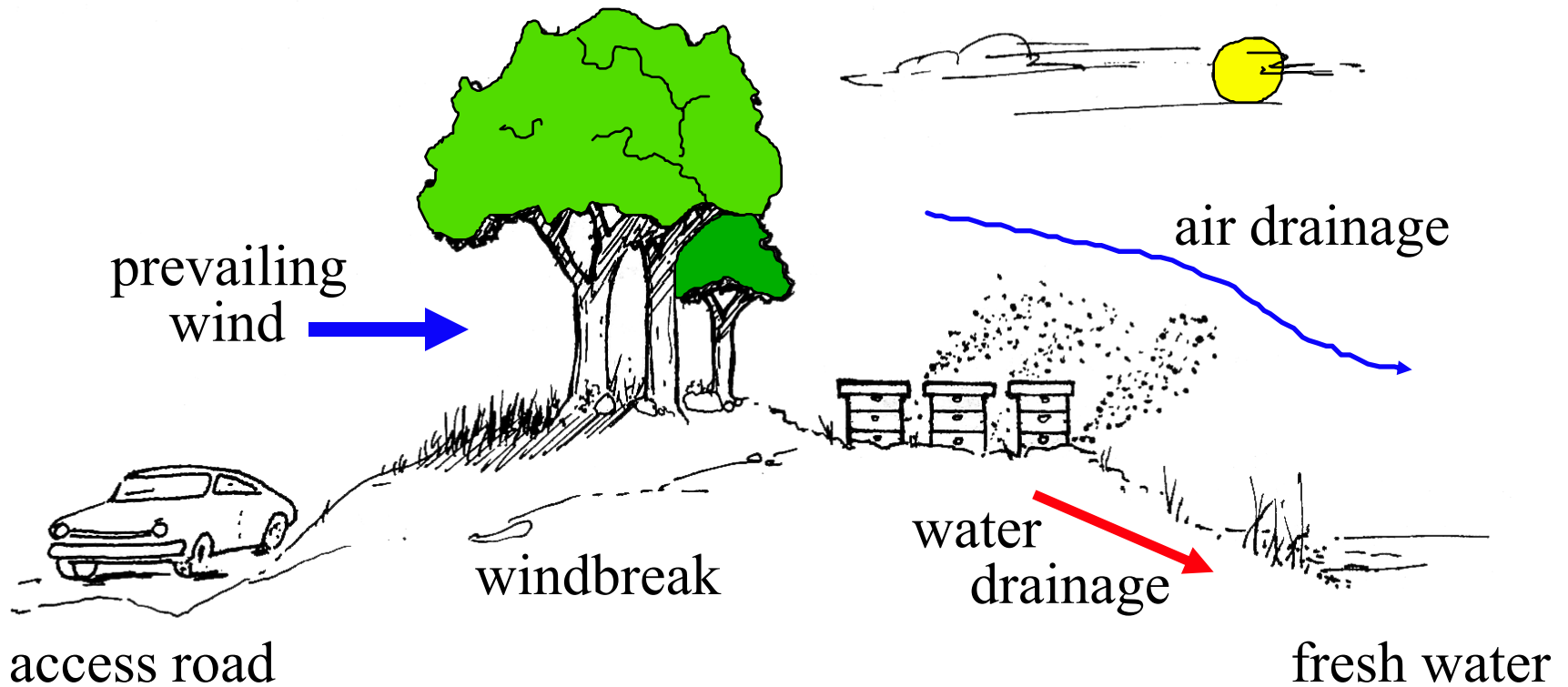


1. Bottom board
 2. 2 Full depth hive bodies (alternate 3 medium)
 3. 10 frames / hive body, plus foundation
 4. Inner cover and telescoping cover
 5. Honey supers (minimum 2 medium, plus frames, foundation; better 3 supers per hive)
- (Also need equipment for protection and working bees - veil, smoker, hive tool)

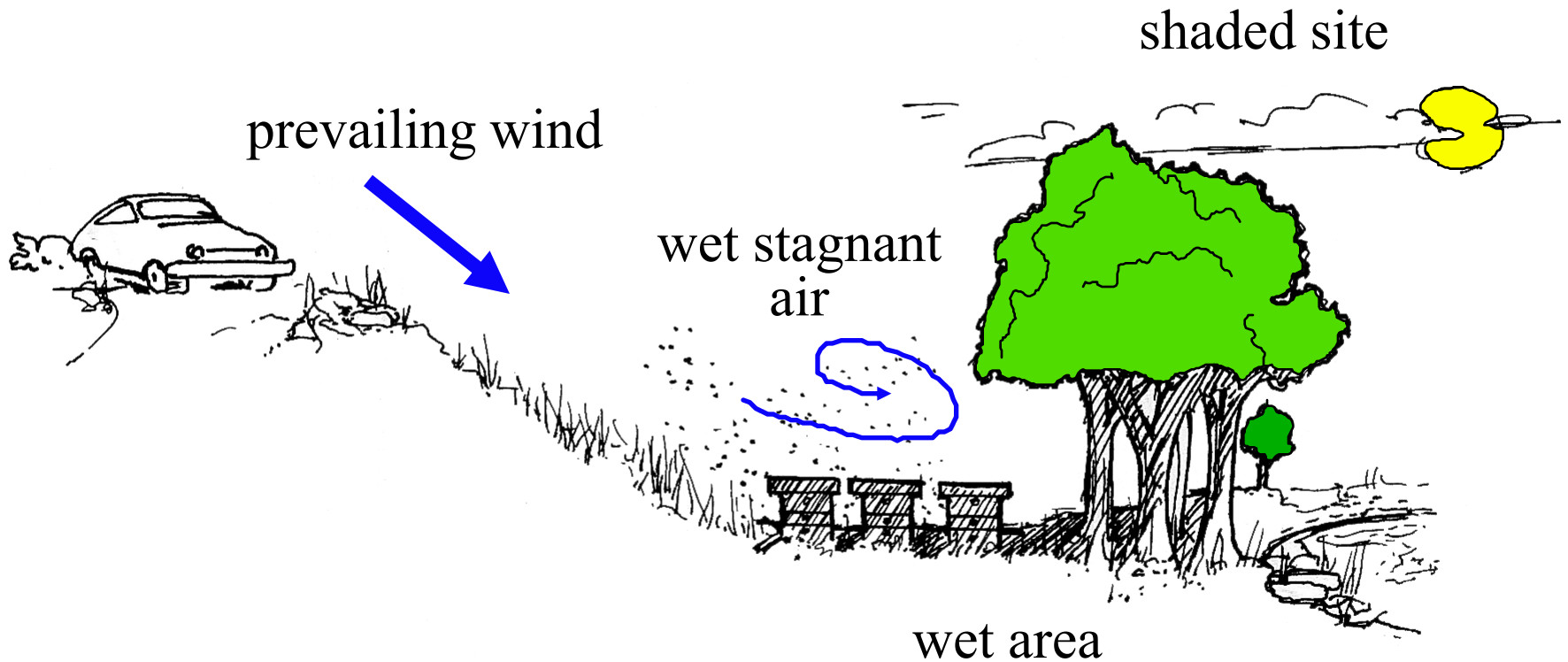
Apiary Location

- Face south or south-east
- Colonies should be well exposed to the sun
- Windbreak
- Slope to ground - good water drainage
- Source of fresh water nearby
- Do not want a highly visible site
- Access ease at all seasons

Ideal Apiary Site



Poor Apiary Site



Locating Bee Hives in Suburban/Urban Areas

1. Low visibility - Out of sight; out of mind
2. Use flight obstacles in front of hives
3. Don't over-populate
(< 4 hives on $1/4 - 1/2$ acre)
4. Keep gentle bees

