

Summary

Présentation

Preamble

* Beekeeping and its derivatives

The bee through history

Melittosphex, the oldest known bee

Bees and origins, migratory currents

From picking to beekeeping: old hives

Modern techniques

Invention of the frame hive, the turning point

Artificial selection

Breeding queens and artificial insemination

Sugar foods

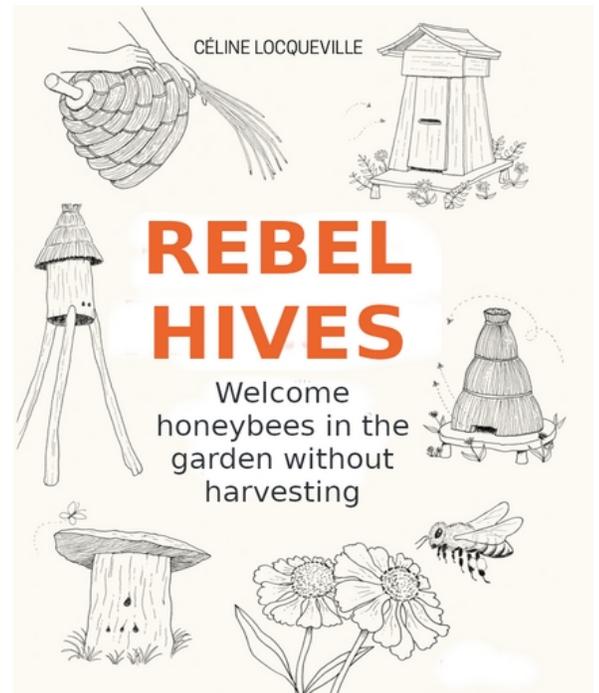
Concentration of hives and transhumance

Uninterrupted harvest

Additional factors

Hive products

- Honey, made from nectar
 - Our relationship to honey
 - Act by our consumption choices
- Pollen
 - Her role for the bee and how she harvests it
 - By what process is it taken from a hive?
 - The disadvantages for bees
- Royal jelly
 - How does the bee produce it?
 - Intensive and commercial production
 - The disadvantages for bees
- Beewax
 - How does the bee produce it?
 - Problems with embossed waxes
 - Plastic frames
- Propolis
 - Her role for the bee and how she harvests it
 - How the beekeeper picks it



* For free and wild bees

- **1. First encounter with bees**

- A swarm passes
- In the garden
- First contact with the hive
- Another beekeeping
- How to find bees
- Towards beekeeping without harvest

- **2. What happens in a natural hive**

- The inhabitants, their roles
- The natural combs of the nest
- The nursery: in the heart of the nest
- Swarming, expansion
- Summer periods
- Fall-winter: the fall
- Nest development in pictures

- **3. Pollination**

- Pollinators of the garden
- Pollen exchanges
- How flowers attract insects
- The bees, magicians, energize the flowers
- A hive in the garden : what effect on pollination

- **4. Welcoming a hive in my garden without harvesting honey**

- What happens if you do not take honey in the hives?
- What is the point of having a hive if nothing is harvested?
- Does it take a lot of work to look after such a hive?

- **5. Choose the location**

- Sun exposure
- Wind exposure
- Proximity to a water point

- **6. Floral environnement**

- Trees, hedges, ornamental shrubs, bramble and ivy, berries, aromatic perennials, bulbs, flowering fallows, flowering meadows, Mediterranean vegetation,
- Importance of neglected environments
- Wetlands and shores
- Maintenance of grassy spaces

- **7. Geobiology at the service of bees**

Presentation of the main phenomena
Geological phenomena and geomagnetic
Identify phenomena: detection tools
Some field observations
what lessons can be learned

- **8. Making the hive**

Some simple models to realize

1. Hive with a chalet roof
2. Hive trunk
3. Hive in straw
4. Horizontal hive made of wood and straw
5. Corded wooden hive
6. Horizontal reed hive
7. Earth-straw hive
8. Window-hive
9. Hive in a barrel
10. Écofloor
11. Insect house for osmies

- **9. How to find bees**

Spontaneous settlement
Swarms exchange
Swarm recovery

- **10. Managing the hive**

Memento of the main events of the year
Some possible disturbances
Climate change
Parasites and predators

- Varroa
- The Asian hornet

For the sustainability of the species

- swarming
- primary and secondary swarms: the song of queens

Questions answers :

- Can we open the hive to see what bees do?
- What is the queen doing in the hive? How to know if she is there?
- How do bees make honey?
- Should we feed the bees?
- Having a hive in your garden, is it dangerous?
- Can we move a hive?
- What is the regulation to install a hive?

Présentation



Céline Locqueville is a french gardener, landscape gardener, basketwoman, lover of plants and small animals. Trained at the National School of Landscape of Versailles, passionate about natural gardens, she created the Garden of Small Hives in Burghundy in 2010, place of transmission of knowledge and awareness to the preservation of bees and biodiversity, which welcomes all year visitors and trainees from all walks of life. At the heart of the garden are five beehives not like the others, made from natural materials such as wood or straw. Bees are never disturbed, and simply live their lives as free bees.

The intention

The world moves and creaks everywhere, it seems that it is about to moult, and change its skin. Old values and old habits have taken on wrinkles. "It's the moment", I want to write this book maturing in a corner of my head, "a book about bees, or rather *for* the bees." This is not so easy, ... this subject has already made so much ink flow from the pens of eminent specialists and scientists, what more could there be to add? ... To take a closer look it seems to me that the majority of what has been written converges more on the subject of honey than on that of the bee itself. We do not give her the floor very often, we talk in her place and we decide what is good for her without asking her opinion, except for a few books, especially that of Jacqueline Freeman who has made herself their spokesperson in her book 'The Song of Bees', where she transmits with great delicacy what her winged friends entrusted her in the hollow of the ear.

In the first part of this book I will present the current situation, a slump in which the honey bee is stuck, a serious subject to which I will try to shed some light without necessarily dwelling on this observation. In the second part I will counterbalance that by an optimistic and innovative approach, an active approach for everyone, convinced that important changes happen with a collective awareness and the sum of thousands of small individual gestures, as per the image of the Hummingbird's Tale told by Pierre Rabhi. The bee is so important to the ecosystem because of its pollinating role that we all have an interest in protecting it and investing ourselves in creating safe havens for it.

I will also talk about my experience with bees, since they are the ones who taught me everything. And I will tell how I managed to clear a tiny path that led me to become a "beekeeper without honey" and to promote a new relationship with the bee, a soft and non-mercantile relationship, free of the notion of profit and whose beneficiaries are numerous - the bees but also man and the whole of the living world. I realized by writing that I was not the only one to follow this path, and that in several European countries and in America, pioneers of preservation had already begun this same process.

The intended audience

This very illustrated book is for all lovers of biodiversity and natural gardens, including those who are unaware of the life of honey bees: nature lovers and permaculturers, gardeners, anyone wishing to help bees by simple gestures. The language used can be understood by people with no knowledge of beekeeping.

It provides the instructions and practical advice accompanying the reception of a colony of bees, and presents models of hives simple to manufacture oneself which will easily find their place in gardens, conservatory orchards and apiaries, natural spaces, shared gardens, roof terraces, groves of trees, etc.

The originality of the approach

A panoramic view of the history of the bee and the primitive forms of man-made hives, which can inspire us to create hives of preservation from natural materials: straw, earth, wood, wood bark.

The discovery of the genetic erosion of the bee, subject generally little discussed.

The presentation of geobiological phenomena (geological and geomagnetic) favorable or unfavorable to the bee, in order to know how to place the hives for optimal comfort of the colonies.

An easily understandable description of the life of the colony inside preservation hives, which are very different from production hives.

A practical guide that explains how to help bees in the garden by adopting a respectful maintenance of wilderness, by planting flowering fallows and adapted shrubs, but also how to better choose the honey that is consumed.

A presentation of the biodiverse hives that we have built and tested in our 'Petites Ruches' Garden for several years, accompanied by a precise description of their materials, dimensions, volumes, to allow the reader to make their own hives.

