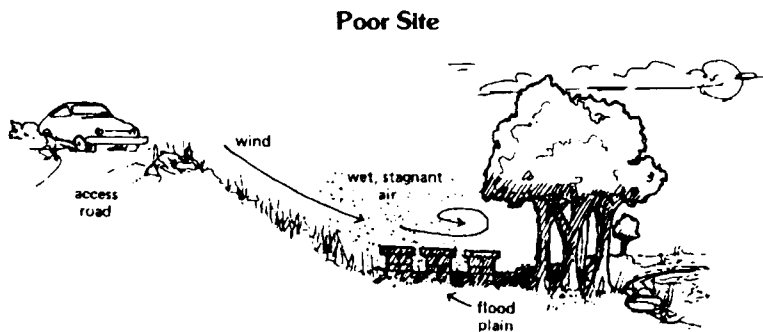
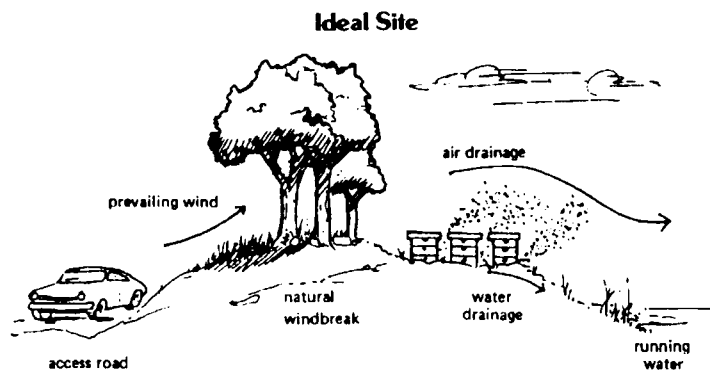


Apiary Location



The ideal apiary or bee yard should be located to optimize the following:
close to fresh water.

easy vehicle access.

near pollen and nectar sources.

on top of slopes.

away from wetland.

in open fields with a windbreak to the north.

near the owner or friendly neighbors to discourage vandalism.

with entrances oriented to the east southeast to catch early sun.

with entrances clear of weeds and other obstructions.

Lighting A Smoker

Use of the smoker

The use of smoke while working bees is essential. No hive should be opened without first smoking the bees. A few periodic puffs of smoke will help keep the bees under control, but over-smoking will irritate the bees. When the bees are smoked, they engorge on honey. Bees with full stomachs are less likely to sting. When bees are alarmed they release a scent which causes all bees to react aggressively. The smoke will mask this alarm odor, leaving the other bees more likely to continue their normal routine. If you have been stung or wish to move the bees from an area, simply puff smoke at the area.

Lighting the smoker

It is a good idea to practice lighting the smoker before going into the apiary. It is important that the smoker does not go out. Always have enough fuel on hand to keep the smoker going while in the apiary. You never know when you might need it most.

There are plenty of good types of fuel for use in the smoker. Do not use synthetic material because of the toxic gas it might give off. Among the types of fuel are straw, rotted wood, pine needles, burlap, rags, sawdust and corn cobs. To light the smoker, place newspaper in the bottom of the smoker. Light the newspaper. Slowly add material to the smoker while puffing the bellows. Pack the material into the smoker while continuously puffing the bellows. Once the smoker is going, place a handful of grass or green leaves on top of the material to cool the smoke and catch hot ashes.