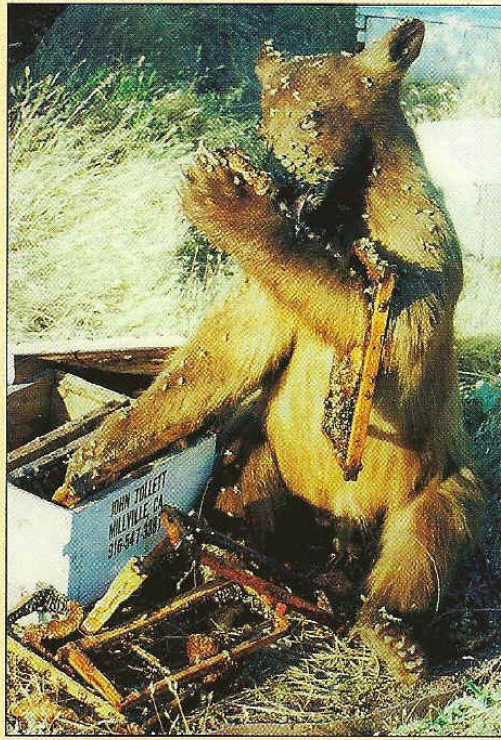


Preventing Black Bear Damage



A Beekeeper's Guide

*Cornell Cooperative Extension
Department of Natural Resources
Department of Entomology*

*NYS Department of
Environmental Conservation
Bureau of Wildlife*

*NYS Department of
Agriculture & Markets*

and

*Empire State
Honey Producers Association*

Managing and Preventing Damage to Apiaries

How to Identify Bear Damage

- ◆ Hives knocked over, damaged, scattered, torn apart, or carried away.
- ◆ Frames damaged or broken (look for claw and tooth marks).
- ◆ Honeycombs and/or larvae consumed or destroyed.
- ◆ Evidence of bear tracks, feces, hair or other signs.



Hives damaged by bear



Beehives protected by energized fencing system.

If Damage Has Not Yet Occurred:

- ◆ Keep mowed, cleared corridors around hive sites.
- ◆ Avoid placing hives in abandoned areas or near wooded, overgrown areas.
- ◆ Avoid providing food on your property; this attracts and habituates bears.
- ◆ If located anywhere near one of the three bear ranges, consider erecting a temporary or permanent electric fence.
- ◆ Prevention is important. A fence will work more effectively before a bear starts to feed on brood and honey than afterwards.

Preventing Damage Before It Occurs

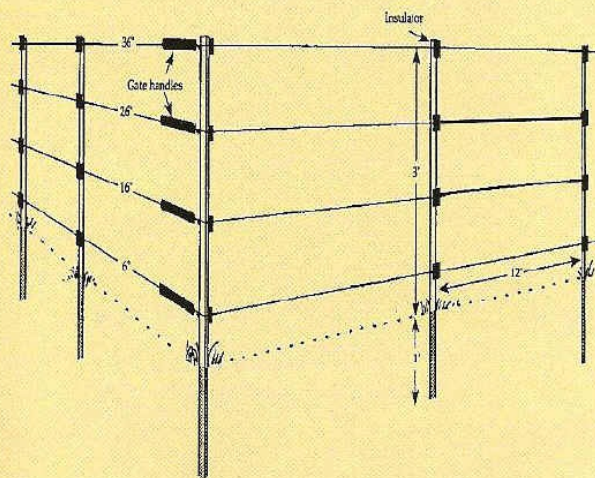
Electric Polywire Portable Fence

One person can easily and quickly install this fence. It is economical and dependable for low to moderate bear pressures. The fence consists of four strands of electric polywire that are attached to posts with insulators. The resulting fence measures 33' x 33'. Cost is approximately \$200.

For the hobby beekeeper with five or fewer hives, a 15' x 15' fence may be more practical. In this case, only 100 m. polywire, 8 fence rods, and 32 insulators are required, lowering the overall cost by approximately \$20.

To Install

1. Drive in four corner posts 1 foot deep.
2. Stretch the polywire from the four posts at intervals of 6, 16, 26, and 36 inches from ground level.
3. Hand tighten the polywire and pin the ends with four square knots.
4. Drive in the remaining posts at 12-foot intervals and insert poly wire.
5. Locate energizer inside an empty super.
NOTE: It is important to test fence voltage at regular intervals using a tester which registers the actual voltage in numbers, not on a relative scale.



Materials & Cost*

200 m. Polywire (F390)	\$ 9.70
12 4-foot Fence Rods (M200)	15.00
48 Insulators (F510)	13.00
4 Gate Handles (F499)	6.40
AN90 Portable Energizer (C310)	99.00
12-volt deep cycle battery	55.00
	\$ 198.10

List of Fence Suppliers

The Design Works, Ltd.
14 Whites Beach Rd.
Ballston Lake 12019
(518) 399-4516
Saratoga County

Marty L. Layden
Barnes Hill Rd.
Lockwood 14859-9615
(607) 598-2539
Tioga, Chemung Counties

Dan B. FitzPatrick
8408 Carney Hollow Rd.
Route 1 Wayland 14572
(716) 669-2179
Steuben County

Fineview Farms
5 Mile Line Road
Ogdensburg 13669
(315) 394-0118
Saint Lawrence County

*Order numbers listed in parentheses apply to orders for Max-Flex Fence System. Materials may be ordered from dealers listed at left, or directly. Phone: 1-800-356-5458; Fax: 304-753-4827.

Facts About Bears

Black bears in New York State occasionally have roamed beyond their traditional ranges in search of food.



Always an opportunist, a bear will take advantage of any foods available. Droughts in recent years have not helped matters. When natural foods such as nuts, berries, insects and tender vegetation are scarce, bears actively search for anything to eat.

From time to time, beekeepers have reported bear damage to their beehives. In response, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, in cooperation with the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, the Empire State Honey Producers Association, and Cornell Cooperative Extension, provides the following information about the protection of apiaries.

For most needs, a simple, cost-effective electric fence design can be highly effective in deterring bears. Experience has shown that the simplest of energized fences, with three or four wires, can provide effective protection against bear damage.

If bears have damaged your beehives, please contact your Regional DEC Office to report economic losses.

The following information is especially needed:

_____ *Number of hives damaged*

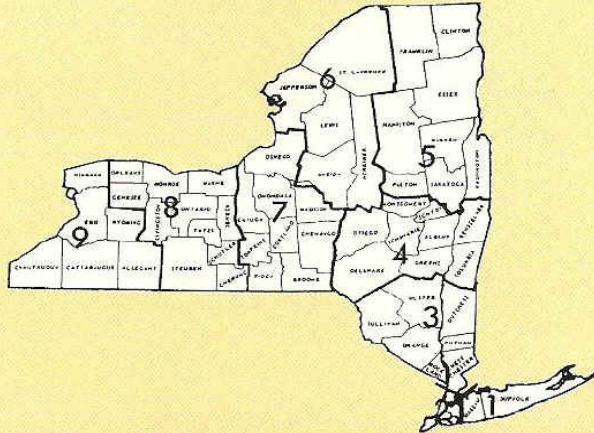
\$ _____ *Equipment loss and replacement cost*

\$ _____ *Production loss*

\$ _____ *Bees/Queen replacement costs*

Providing information will help the DEC to better assist beekeepers in the future. See next page for the Regional Office nearest you.

Where To Report Damage



Department of Environmental Conservation Regional Offices

Region 1
Loop Road Bldg. 40
Stony Brook, NY 11790-
2356
516-444-0310

Region 6
State Office Bldg.
317 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601-3787
315-785-2236

Region 3
21 S. Putt Corners Road
New Paltz, NY 12561-1696
914-256-3089

Region 7
1285 Fisher Ave.
Cortland, NY 13045-5170
607-753-3095

Region 4
Route 10 HCR 1
Stamford, NY 12167-9503
607-652-7367

Region 8
6274 E. Avon-Lima Road
Avon, NY 14414-9519
716-226-2466

Region 5
Route 86 PO Box 296
Ray Brook, NY 12977-
0296
518-897-1200

Region 9
128 South Street
Olean, NY 14760-3632
716-372-0645

Warrensburg sub-office
Hudson Street Extension
Warrensburg, NY 12885
518-623-3671