

HIVE STANDS

The perfect hive stand should do the following:

- Provide sturdy support for a hive off of the moist ground. Recall that bees evolved to live in trees – not in the ground like yellow jackets. Being close to the ground results in cooler temperatures and higher humidity. Cooler temperatures mean the bees delay and shorten their foraging time. High humidity makes their job of evaporating water out of nectar to make honey that much harder. Yet the hive should not be so high that the beekeeper has to get on a ladder to reach the top supers. For a look at a hive stand that may be a wee bit tall, consider the bee hive at the White House. 14 to 18 inches is comfortable.
- Discourage animals, such as skunks or raccoons, who might be attracted by the protein-rich bees. Bees defend their hive by attacking the soft underbelly of skunks and racoons. That belly is more exposed if the hive is on a stand.
- Enable screened bottom boards to do their job – drop mites, hive beetles, and other junk out of the hive where they are less likely to find their way back. If you have ground under the hive, you can douse it with beneficial nematodes which will interrupt the Small Hive's Beetle's life cycle.
- Discourage ants. If ants are a problem, put your hive on a stand and put each leg of the stand in a bowl or can of water or machine oil, fresh ashes also spread around the legs on the ground can help, but need replenished.
- Keep your bees relaxed. Hives in Brazil are all Africanized Honey Bees and they are on separate stands because there is less vibration transmitted from one hive to the next hive when working a hive.
- Be easy and cheap to build and last a long time
- Look great

Source: http://www.beehacker.com/wp/?page_id=22



Not knowing how tall their hive could be if it was producing lots of honey. Hopefully these legs will hold up through harvest season.



Do you remember doing the puzzles where you circled the things that were wrong ?



Rocks or any type of object that you have to step over are an 'accident waiting to happen' when you have a hive body in your arms blocking your vision.



White House hive stand is about 40 inches high - just a little too tall for practicality.



Getting the hives off of the ground is helpful in several ways. One, it provides better ventilation, and it also helps save your back when working the hives. And helps to keep some varmints out. This hive stand is built using treated lumber, and it should provide years of low maintenance service.

Here is the area after the sod has been stripped, and the first support blocks are set and leveled. This area is about 10' long, and 32" wide

**Although not shown, it is suggest to lay a weed barrier down before setting blocks and positioning rest of stand.

The stand frame is 2"x6"x8ft treated lumber, and 4x4 posts (suggest at least 14-18" high) for the legs. A full hive, with several medium supers full of honey can weigh several hundred pounds, so you have to build for strength and longevity.



Here is the completed hive stand. It is 8' long, and 21" wide. This should support the bottom boards under the hives just fine. Added a stringer at each end for side support for the bottom boards. This should comfortably and safely hold 2 to 4 bee hives.



After getting the stand set, and making sure everything was level, all that is left was to add mulch around the stand, and clean up the mess! Here is the finished product, ready for hives and bees!

ADDITIONAL GOOD IDEAS



Heavy duty hooks or buckles screwed to stand for strapping hives down. Use straps instead of bricks or rocks.



Besides the splayed legs, for stability if you make the inside width of this hive stand 18 inches you can use that space to hang frames on when you are working hives.



Permanent or moveable exterior heavy plywood cut to fit top of stand to hold tools and supplies when working on hives.



Use heavy landscape cloth under hive stands areas covered by mulch or driveway rock. Use diatomaceous earth, rock salt, epsom salt, or beneficial nematodes spread into the cover material to help break the small hive beetle life cycle (replenish periodically).

After gorging themselves in the hive and making a mess, small hive beetle larva drop out of the hive and move anywhere up to 6 ft out from the hive area and burrow into the ground to continue maturing into an adult flying beetle.