

Bee Production

This is a summary of the Canadian Organic Standards.
For additional information please refer to
CAN/CGSB-32.310-2015 available here :
<http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ongc-cgsb/programme-program/normes-standards/internet/bio-org/pgng-gpms-eng.html>

Feed sources (7.1)

- The sources of nectar, honeydew and pollen shall consist mainly of organically produced plants and spontaneous (wild) vegetation. GMO or treated crops must be avoided
- Organic honey and pollen shall be the primary food source for adult bees. Feed shall not be provided less than 30 days before the harvest of honey.

Organic Plan (7.1)

- You will have to prepare an organic plan providing a detailed description of the sources of bees and production methods.

Transition (7.1.8)

- All non-organic wax shall be replaced by organically produced wax.
- Colonies and hives shall not be rotated between organic and non-organic management systems,

Introduced Bees (7.1.9)

- Shall come from organic production units when commercially available. Replacement colonies shall be produced within the operation or come from another established organic apiary.

Location of Hives (7.1.10)

- Where sources or zones of prohibited substances are present, that is, genetically engineered crops or environmental contamination, apiaries shall be protected with a buffer zone of 3 km (1.875 mi.).
- If natural features that would restrict the likelihood of bee travel (such as forests, hills or waterways) and abundant organic forage are present, buffer zones may be reduced.

Colony Management (7.1.12 / 7.1.15)

- Hives shall be clearly and individually identified, and shall be monitored regularly, that is, at one- to two week intervals, depending upon the colony, weather conditions and time of year
- Clipping of wings on queen bees is prohibited.
- Synthetic materials in bee smokers are prohibited.
- Annual destruction of bee colonies, following nectar flows, is prohibited.
- Treated hives shall be placed in isolation and undergo a 12-month transition period. Wax shall be replaced with organic wax and all veterinary treatments shall be clearly documented.

Extraction, Processing and Storage (7.1.16)

- Extraction of honey from a brood comb with live brood is prohibited.
- Heating of honey for extraction shall not exceed 35°C (95°F) and the decrystallization temperature shall not exceed 47°C (116.6°F). If organic honey is heated above those temperatures, then it can only be used as an ingredient in a multi-ingredient product.