



SITE PREPARATION CHECKLIST

Once you have established sufficient floral sources to allow your bees to flourish, the following points should be considered when deciding where to place your hive/s.

1. Positioning of Hive

- ❑ Facing of the entrance – ideally NE in the tropics, but also consider the following points:
- ❑ Neighbours – you do not want your bees to be flying directly into the neighbours living space, swimming pool or kid's playground
- ❑ Night Lights – bees will be attracted to night lights so do not face the hive entrance towards your outside lights
- ❑ Prevailing winds – it is harder for the bees to fly out into the wind
- ❑ Sunny position – full sun is best; if your site has only partial sun, morning sun is better than afternoon sun

2. Hive Stand

- ❑ Solid
- ❑ Ability to defend against pests –
 - Cane toads (make your hive stand minimum height of 500cm to dissuade cane toads from sitting at the entrance and eating bees)
 - Green ants – place stand legs in tins of water (with oil on top to stop mosquito larvae) or some type of water or oil barrier
 - Green Ants – do not place your hive under trees which are housing green ant nests
- ❑ Forward angle – your hive should lean forward slightly to assist with debris removal and to prevent water pooling on bottom board
- ❑ If you have other livestock on the site (eg cows, horses, goats) you may wish to fence off the hive to prevent livestock rubbing against the hive and potentially knocking it over.

3. Maintenance of site

- ❑ Ability to mow/keep weed free
- ❑ Room for beekeeper to work hives

4. Ensure there is a water supply nearby

- ❑ Not in full sun – bees don't like hot water
- ❑ Something for the bees to land on – they cannot swim – A large pot with water lilies or similar plants works well.
- ❑ Place water close to the hive to discourage bees from finding your neighbours swimming pool or outside tap.