

PRODUCING SECTION HONEY FOR SHOW



We have put together some information on creating comb sections to help inspire you to give it a go at this year's Honey Show.

Andy Anderson has very generously given us some expert tips and it is also worth reading Gino Jabbar's account of [Producing a Frame of Honey For Honey Show](#) as many of the principles are the same.

We will be purchasing 10 section frames this Spring and if you wish to give it a go, get in touch with and we can arrange to give you one to try. However, the caveat is that you need to enter it into the honey show in November (2024).

- There are two types of section Standard Basswood, with three split sides.
- Round plastic-type, which bees seem to prefer because there are no corners to fill and the queen will rarely lay in them.
- Prepare square sections (Basswood), and warm them before painting the inside of the section with molten wax excluding the corners

To prevent sagging, use only a thin strip of foundation standing only ¼inch (6mm) proud of the section; insert it with points of the hexagons towards the top.

Andy says:

“When using square sections there are a few points to consider:

You must have a strong hive, preferably one that has a new queen, if it has already been artificially swarmed it can be reunited with the other half to bring the strength up.

The reason is that when the bees are restricted to sections they feel the space for them is too small and this may trigger a swarm if they have not already swarmed, indeed regardless of what you do they may still swarm!

Give them no choice but sections otherwise they tend to ignore them and fill the frames you have given them. There is no need to coat the wax of the sections in honey, just a waste of time and messy.

Use either a section box or specifically designed frames, holding three sections, filling the super. The sections in the box or super must be separated by a plastic divider or the bees will build brace comb between the sections.

I have found the bees do not tend to put pollen into the sections so no issues there.

You must have a good guaranteed flow of nectar otherwise the bees will ignore the sections, so timing is everything.

In the weeks you have spent preparing the hive your knowledge of the bees health, and swarming potential is important and with a good healthy hive, you do not need to inspect every week. Weekly inspections disturb the dynamics of the hive and reduce the potential of the bees honey production.

Some bees just really don't like sections so if you have no luck then try a different hive.”

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- After carefully removing complete sections, scrape burr comb and propolis off.
- Store upright at <4°C
- Good sections should weigh about 16oz (454g), have good even cappings with no weeping or granulation and no evidence of Braula or Wax Moth.

(Additional Information courtesy of Midbucks)