

# RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT

## TOOLS

### ESSENTIALS

#### SMOKER

There are many styles of smoker and many types of smoker fuel. They all can work. As a new beekeeper, the most important things to consider are finding a smoker fuel that you can easily light and refill that also does not irritate you. Do yourself a favor and spend some time to find a smoker fuel whose smoke you like or at least can tolerate. As well, keep a long grill lighter with you to light your smoker. The smoker should provide dense white smoke when used. Popular fuel sources include burlap, pine shavings, and pine needles. I use pine or cedar shavings for fuel and a nearby smoker.

#### HIVE TOOL

The hive tool is used for prying and scraping. It should be kept sharp. You would be surprised at how hard it can be to lift boxes or frames that have been glued together with honeycomb and propolis. Your hive tool will help you slice through the sticky and pry apart the stuck. Like smokers, there are numerous styles, but the most important thing is getting used to using it. I use a nearby hive tool.

### NICE TO HAVE

#### FRAME GRABBER

I use a frame grabber most of the time, because it helps keep my fingers from getting sore.

#### BEE BRUSH

A bee brush is great at moving a lot of bees without crushing them. I sometimes use one.

## PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

### VEIL, JACKET OR FULL SUIT

The absolute minimum for a new beekeeper is a veil. Defensive bees aim for your head. Veils only work if the mesh screen is away from your skin. Some veil styles do not stick out very far from your face and require the use of a hat with a brim underneath. The most commonly used form of bee veil is a bee jacket, which combines the veil with a thick jacket. The next step up in protection is a full bee suit, which incorporates pants with elastic cuffs on the ankle. In any case, always wear boots that can cover your ankles. I wear either a bee jacket or a full suit.

### GLOVES

The three choices are no gloves, nitrile gloves, and thick leather gloves. Nitrile gloves are a good compromise between the two. With nitrile gloves your sting risk is significantly lower than with no gloves while retaining most all your dexterity, which you lose with leather gloves. I wear nitrile gloves.