

Comb Honey

The new antique

James E. Tew
The Ohio State University
Wooster, Ohio



Anyone can make comb honey in good years.....the trick is making it in bad years

You Need:

- A good knowledge of bee behavior
- A good nectar flow
- Dependable management techniques
- A good disease/pest control program
- Strong colonies
 - Ideally a big swarm

Comb Honey Types

- **Bulk frame** comb honey
- **Cut comb** comb honey
- **Chunk honey**
- **Section honey**
 - Wood sections
 - Round sections
 - Plastic sections



Cutting your own

For: Cut Comb Honey
or Chuck Honey



Disassociated Facts:

- 100+ year old procedure
- New comb is tasteless
- Old comb chewy
- Comb honey tastes better
- No differences in floral sources
- 1900's nearly 50% of all honey was comb



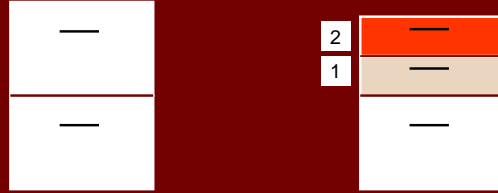
Extracted honey was slow in coming....

- Concerns about adulteration
- Inefficient extractors

Glucose and invert sugar

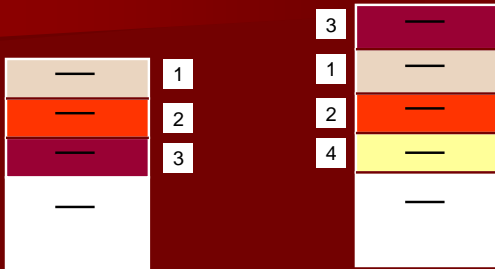


Supering Up for Section Honey...



Leave all bees and brood, but remove one brood chamber

The next sequence....



If flow is slowing, put 4 on top of 3

Plastic sections – (nearly) the only way



Bee-O-Pac System

Hogg Half Comb Cassette

Ross Round Processing...



First...



Then...



Next...





The final product....

You should know....

- Demand for unfinished sections???
- Feed sugar to finish capping
- You can freeze sections
- Yes, you do get wax in your teeth
- In general, round sections are *not* reusable
- Don't use regular supers with section supers
- Judicious smoke use
- Only 4 1/2 x 4 1/2 sections are available now
- Avoid travel stain

In the bee supply catalogs...

- Section scraping knives
- Cut comb, thin surplus and 7/11 foundation
- Thin slotted top bars
- Half comb cassettes
- Wax tube fasteners
- Square comb cutters
- Plastic cut comb boxes
- Clamshell packs
- Lone supplier of basswood boxes

Comb Honey Books

Killion, Carl E. Honey In the Comb. Paris/IL: Killion & Sons, Apiaries; 1951.

Killion, Eugene E. Honey In The Comb. Hamilton/IL: Dadant & Sons; 1981

Morse, Roger A. Comb Honey Production. Ithaca/NY: Wicwas Press; 1978.

Sechrist, E. L. Honey Getting. Hamilton/IL: American Bee Journal; 1944.

Taylor, Richard. How to Raise Beautiful Comb Honey. Linden Books; 1977.

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