

Bee colonies face miserable winter

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Prospects do not look especially good for bee colonies this winter, according to Dewey M. Caron, extension apiculture specialist and professor of entomology at the University of Maryland.

But beekeepers can take steps this fall to help insure winter survival of their bees.

First, make sure that each colony has an adequate supply of capped honey. Six full standard frames, or about 60 pounds of honey, is usually enough for each hive.

If a colony does not have enough stored honey, it may have to be fed. Use a heavy sugar solution with two parts of granulated sugar to one part of warm water.

Weak colonies with small honey stores may be combined with stronger colonies to increase their chances for survival.

Provide adequate ventilation to prevent condensation in the hive, causing moisture to drip down and chill the bees.

Some beekeepers attempt to insulate their hives by wrapping them with black

tar paper; but this extra protection is not needed in Maryland, Dr. Caron says.

However, colonies should be moved to sites that will provide protection from winter winds and give maximum exposure to sunlight.

This will permit colonies to warm up faster on mild days, allowing the bees to exit the hives and void their feces. If bees cannot leave their hives, they will be forced to defecate inside; this can lead to an outbreak of dysentery.

Colonies which must enter the winter with low honey supplies should be inspected in early spring and given an immediate feeding of sugar solution if necessary.

Caron said he does not recommend winter inspection of colonies, since bees cannot be fed successfully when temperatures are below 59 degrees F. They cluster together in cold weather and cannot move even a few inches to get to a feeder can.

This year's bleak winter outlook, Caron explains, is due to hot, dry weather which resulted in a poor nectar yield from the fall flowers on which bees normally depend for their winter stores.

Homemakers

(Continued from Page C16)

pot full of garden tools and accessories."

Alletta spoke on extra nutritious cookies and desserts and shared recipes with the homemakers.

She also urged the women to cut the calories and try new recipes that contain whole wheat flour.

"Creative Entertaining for the Holidays" was the show presented by Marcia Wharton, Mechanicsburg, a culinary teacher, lecturer and consultant.

Marcia showed how to entertain with a flair - simply, imaginatively and successfully, by giving the homemakers ideas for party

themes, table settings and special meals.

Marcia added, "There are no rights or wrongs for Christmas entertaining, just what feels right for you."

The program, begun in 1952, is a tremendous success every year according to the extension office. Approximately 50 people were turned away each day.

Special attractions for the day were a brief show and tell, given by any homemakers who brought crafts with them, and presentation of door prizes, which were items the speakers made.



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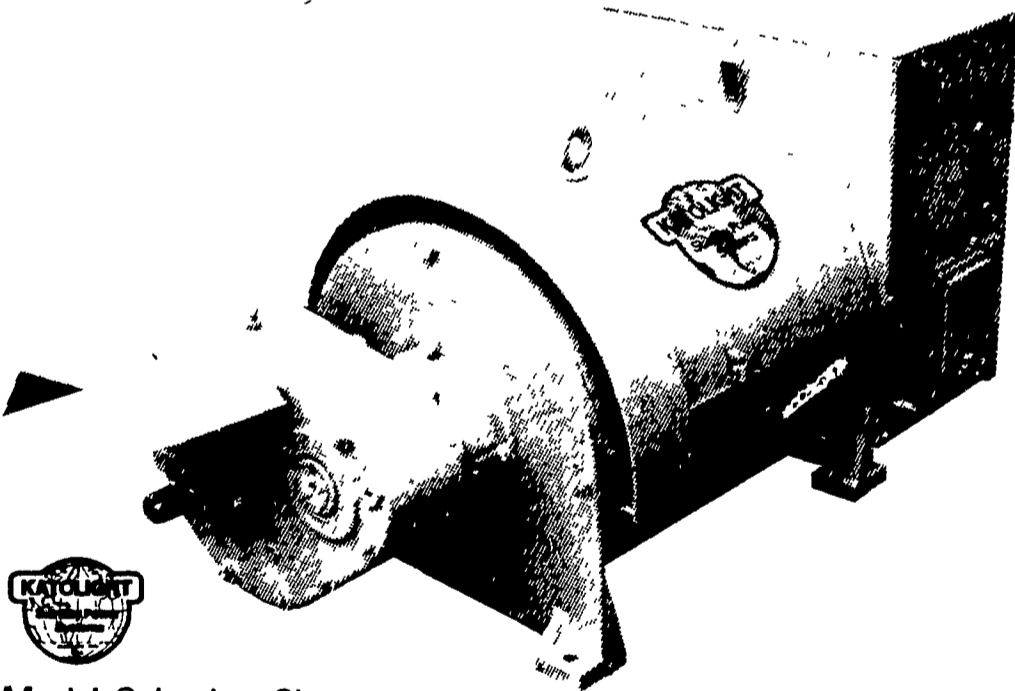
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Gloria Zimmerman, federated flower show judge, demonstrated simple centerpieces, line and design arrangements, and color schemes to the homemakers.

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45LR1	45,000	135,000	70	120/240	175	1	3	670	730
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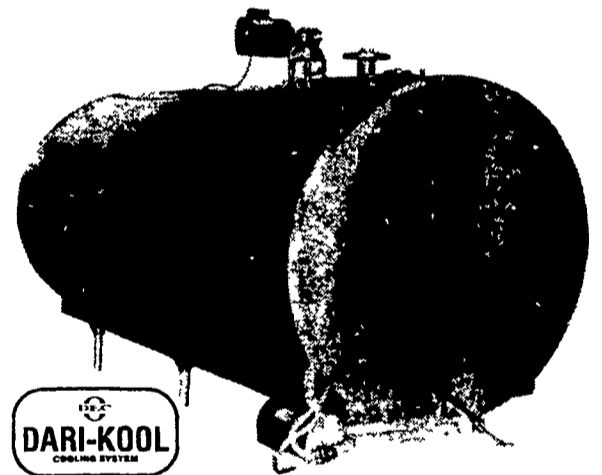
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