

Polystyrene Hives

Approximately one third the cost of red cedar and approximately half the cost of Thorne's pine seconds.

e.g. For a British National including:

Roof
Crown Board
1 Super
Queen Excluder
1 Brood
British National Floor with varroa mesh and entrance reducer
Varroa Tray

£96.00

About one tenth the weight of wood - a big benefit for back sufferers etc., but they have to be anchored down to protect them from wind!

The insulation keeps them warm in winter and cool in summer, thereby minimising the energy the bees have to expend maintaining the temperature in the hive.

This can be a major benefit when over-wintering late swarms, nuclei or just small colonies.

For bee farmers, this can mean a much earlier start to the season, thereby increasing their productivity.

The hives can be painted to protect them from uv light and thereby extend their life.

Because polystyrene hives cannot be scraped clean, some form of tank is needed so that they can be dipped or soaked in washing soda.

Cleaning is a very minor problem for most hives, but for those colonies with the propolis collecting gene, it can be a serious issue.