

## Hive management software

Hive management software can be beneficial for many reasons.

1. Some beekeepers keep track of their colonies by writing on the lids. What if the lids get switched or the wind blows them off? Your records are now ineffective and all that work is lost.
2. Some beekeepers keep papers under the lid of the colony to write updates on. Again, what if the wind blows the lids off and those papers are lost.
3. A field book is great (and something TTP still uses every day) as long as it doesn't catch on fire, get left in the bee yard or end up on the roof of the vehicle (to be lost forever). Why not back up that fieldbook by putting all that data into a program that can organize it all for you?
4. Reports can be generated fairly easily with most management software programs. If a yard develops a disease or is not producing honey, a software program can generate reports for that specific yard (even over several years) to show bee health problems or production inconsistencies. Attempting to look up when you last treated that yard with Fumagilin-B might be difficult down the road.
5. Beekeeping helpers can be given workplans, maps or yard summaries that assist in instructing them what needs to be done in each yard and where those yards are located.
6. Problem colonies are usually flagged by using a rock, a stick, a brick in a unique position or even debris found in the yard. This system works well, but how do you remember to bring queens for the queenless ones, new frames for the colonies that have broken ones, feed for the weak colonies or enough honey supers for all?
7. Dates are easy to forget and even if they get written down, when and where did they get written? Which day did I put those queens in? When am I supposed to take out the treatment? This is when a full month desktop calendar comes in handy, but why not have a program that flags the work that needs to be completed?

So what's out there?

These programs can be downloaded for installation on a laptop that you bring along with you to the yards:

Beeman - <http://www.bcms.eidap.com> **Glen Ackroyd and TTP have been using this program over the past season and are very impressed by it! Request a free trial!**

Buzz - <http://www.dataimagesoftware.net/bee.htm>

BiData - <http://apimo.dk>

Beekeeper - <http://www.chrixon.com/BeeFiles>

BKeeping - <http://www.bkeeping.net>

Apitrack - [http://www.apitrack.com/index\\_en\\_open.htm](http://www.apitrack.com/index_en_open.htm)

These programs are only available online and would require inputting the information when you can get online:

BeeTight - <http://www.beetight.com>

Hive Tracks - <https://www.hivetracks.com>

MyBeeHives - <http://www.mybeehives.com>

Some are free, while others have free trials you can try before purchasing.

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Ontario Beekeepers' Association

Tech-Transfer Program

<http://techtransfer.ontariobee.com>

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