

How to Keep Safe when Beekeeping



Salome from Kenya, wearing a homemade bee suit

Additional images provided by Paul Latham

Bee stings

Bees can sting and stings can be dangerous. Treat bees gently and with respect at all times.

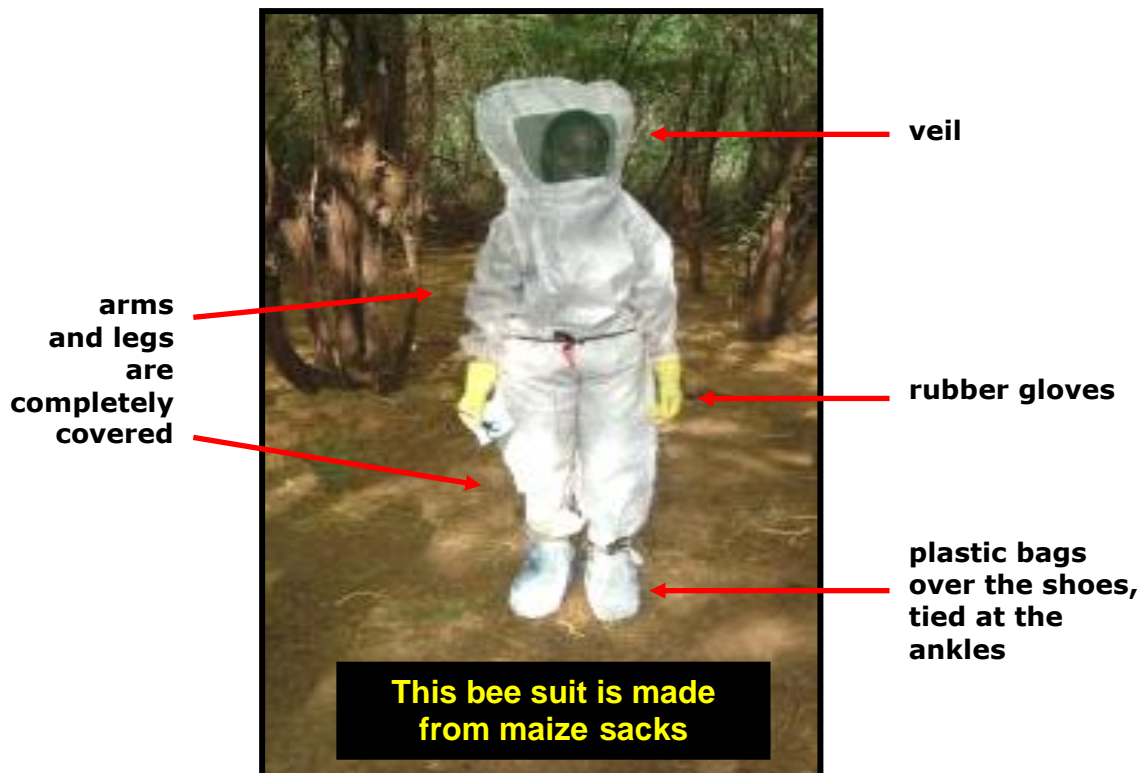


REMEMBER

- Each of these worker bees has a sting
- Every sting gives off a smell that warns other bees of danger
- The smell attracts other bees to sting in the same place
- Cover the sting with smoke to hide the smell from other bees
- Scratch out sting from your skin as quickly as possible

Protective clothing

Always wear good protective clothing that covers your whole body. These bee suits are made from inexpensive local materials:





If you cannot make a bee suit, make a simple veil, like the one shown in the next section.

Wear very thick clothes.

Keep beekeeping clothes clean so the smell of any stings is washed away.

Subduing the bees

Smoke is essential to subdue the bees. There are many ways of smoking and there are many sorts of smokers:

Be safe. Use plenty of smoke to subdue the bees.





This simple smoker is made from a tin can

Do not work alone

Always go to the bees with another person. Be sure all your equipment is prepared.



REMEMBER

- **Do not open a hive without a good reason**
- **Be gentle when opening the hives**
- **Work quickly and quietly**
- **Use plenty of smoke**
- **Only open hives when the temperature is cool**
- **This will usually be in the early morning or the evening**
- **Opening in the evening allows the whole night for bees to settle again**
- **Bee safe**