

Squeezing remaining honey in combs. *Apis cerana japonica*

Japan has two kinds of honey bees, the imported Western bee, and the native Japanese honey bee but they keep native Japanese honey bees in a traditional Japanese beehive known as a pile box hive.

After getting 70% of the honey by the dripping method, the remaining 30% is acquired by squeezing honey out of the combs. Cut the honey out of the box. Use a bag with holes to keep the honeycomb together so that it's easier to squeeze the honey out. Make sure the spacing isn't too fine so that the honey can easily seep out.

Attach the net to the four hooks of the stand then put the box on top of the stand then, cut all four sides of the comb and after finishing detaching the

comb from the sides, turn the box over and cut the side in the same manner as the other side. Don't push the comb out because inside each box there is a wire crossbar.

Steps

Cut the comb along the wire crossbar until the honeycomb is in the netting. Leave the box and hive tool out for the bees to collect the remaining honey. You can squeeze the honey out with a honey press, hand or use some kitchen utensils. Put the netting into the honey press, take the top part of the honey press, and place it on top of the netting that contains the comb. Set up the press by first spinning it down into place. As it moves downwards it squeezes the honeycomb and honey starts to flow out from the funnel.

More steps

Leave it for 24hrs to give time for honey to flow. All of the combs have been compressed together creating this solid disk but there is some honey remaining on the surface. The remaining honey will drip very slowly from this block of wax into the bottom of the plastic container. Put the remaining wax in the freezer for a month to kill moth eggs and larvae remaining in the wax, while the honey drops out. Cleaning the equipment can be quite tedious so leave the equipment out for a few hours and let the bees do the work.