

## **Advantages**

The plastic and fiberglass wraps are easy to work in cold weather.

No unwrapping is required to check the hives.

Wrapping and unwrapping is very fast, easily done by a single person.

The wraps are light and not awkward to work with or store.

Unwrapping can be done in stages to maximize benefit to developing hives in the spring

Minor repairs can be easily done with duct tape

Equal to or less expensive than other winter protection on the market

Wraps should have an 8 to 10 year average life expectancy (cost about a \$1.00/hive/year)

## **Wrapping**

**NOTE: Do each step to all the hives for greatest efficiency**

Make sure the hives are well off the ground and tipped forward

Set hive covers upside down in front of the hives

Place in hive covers in order:

- a) top batt
- b) outer wrap
- c) inner cover rim (if required)
- d) entrance reducer with 3" nail started in centre

Smoke hive and nail on entrance reducers, notch down, leaving approximately 2" of nail protruding.

Place on inner cover rims if not a deep rim inner cover. There **MUST** be an upper entrance to the front of the hive.

Slide on the outer wrap with the single seam going down a back corner, pulling down evenly.

The tunnel (where the two ends of the tube are heat sealed forming a flap) should be up the front of the hive and be held up at the entrance, like a tent, by the nail.

Place the top batt on the inner cover, tucking in the plastic.

Put on the outer cover, weighing down if necessary. At top, pull tunnel flap of the wrap out and away from hive. Make sure bees can get out of upper entrance. Rain and snow will be able to go down the front tunnel and run off the bottom board.

Make sure both the upper and lower entrances are accessible to the bees. The upper entrance has a wind break built in by the top of the tunnel of the outer wrap.

Rodent control recommended for bee yard.

## **Unwrapping**

### 3 Step Process

- 1) Outer wrap
- 2) Inner cover batt
- 3) Entrance reducer

Entrance reducers can be left in the yard or stored elsewhere. The inner cover batts can be stored in barrel bags. The outer wraps can be stacked 8 to 10 in a pile, compressed, and slid into barrel bags. Store bags in a dry location. If a wrap picks up moisture, hang on a clothes line with the vent holes down to drain dry for a few days. Repairs can be made with good quality duct tape.