

Sources for Queens, Nucs and Packages

Updated: March 2, 2018

The emphasis in the list below is on sources for VHS, Saskatraz, northern and overwintered queens, nucs, and bee packages. I cannot, of course, guarantee that buyers will have success with bees purchased from any of these suppliers. Please send your comments and suggestions to Bruce Shriver shriver@genesis2.com

General Notes

Bee Stock – A bee “stock” is a term used to describe a combination of traits that characterize a particular group of bees. Many of the sources for live bees listed below sell one or more bee stocks, e.g., Italian, Carniolan, or Russian. The article "*The Different Types of Honey Bees*" (<https://goo.gl/Uc4Wsz>) is useful in understanding these differences so you know what you're buying. Several sources sell “hybrid” bees, yielding a mix of traits.

VSH Bees – “Varroa sensitive hygiene (VSH) is a behavioral trait of honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) in which bees detect and remove bee pupae that are infested by the parasitic mite *Varroa destructor*” - <https://goo.gl/DAEsZd>. VSH bees used to be called SMR Bees for “suppression of mite reproduction”. Ibrahim and Spivak found that bees with the SMR trait were very hygienic and were able to remove varroa-infested pupae from capped brood cells and suggested that SMR bees may selectively remove pupae having reproductive mites.” See <https://goo.gl/eC415e>

Saskatraz Queens – The Saskatraz queen breeding project (<https://goo.gl/W8ScRH>) in Saskatchewan Canada is attempting to produce queens that are resistant to both tracheal mites and varroa mites.

Shipping – A few of the sources selling bee packages and nucs ship them, but it's more common that they must be picked up. Some beekeeping clubs have a designated driver who will pick up the orders for members and bring them to a central local location. Most of the sources selling queens will ship them, typically via overnight air or priority mail.

The sources for bees are listed by state. The states are in alphabetical order except for New York which is at the top of the list. The quotations are from the websites; some are lightly paraphrased.

New York

Anarchy Apiaries (New York and Florida). “Anarchy Apiaries provides cold-hardy, survivor stock queen bees raised in both Florida and New York. Shipping and pickups start in February. We bring northern, mite and disease-resistant breeder queens south to provide these alternative genetics to beekeepers any time of year.” Sam Comfort is well known for his queens. Contact him at anarchyapiaries@hotmail.com to see when he has some available.

Betterbee (Greenwich, New York). Nucs and bee packages for pickup only. Northern Queens can be picked up or shipped. <https://goo.gl/NBEHqs>

Chautauqua Apiary (Sinclairville, New York). Northern queens, nucs and packages. “We have added some great breeder queens from Michael Palmer in 2017 along with Hygienic stock and breeder queens from Lauri Miller in 2016 that have wintered very well.”

<https://goo.gl/JNWQXM>

Davis Family Honey Farm (Binghamton, New York). Queens, bee packages and nucs, “My queens are daughters of winter survivors that produced above average honey crops in my operation.” - <https://goo.gl/6VjL5r>

Eric’s Honey Farm (Manlius, New York). “We produce and sell nucs using our own queens developed from survivor strains adapted to Central New York’s long cold winters with genetics for gentleness, surplus honey production and disease /parasite resistance due to being raised in a chemical-free environment.” - <https://goo.gl/f6AAFF>

Hudson Valley Bee Supply (Kingston, New York). Local overwintered nucs and southern bee packages. “The bees are packaged, loaded and arrive back in New York in less than 24 hours minimizing stress on the bees.” <https://goo.gl/GBmXYS>

Hungry Bear Farms (Canandaigua, New York). Nucs, bee packages and queens. “We graft all of our queens from our northern survivor stock in our NY apiaries after selecting for a variety of different traits. We will begin taking orders for our queens sometime in April.”

<https://goo.gl/44AmZV>

Johnston’s Honey Bee Farm (Eaton, New York). “Our bees are: Gentle, Mite Resistant, Productive, Winter Hardy. 4 frame nucs with queens raised in the previous growing season.” -

<https://goo.gl/1DZTtZ>

Long Island Beekeepers Club (Huntington, New York). Here is a link to the suppliers that are listed on the LIBC website: <https://goo.gl/o5abQa>. Rich Blohm (beebiz44@gmail.com) is on that list and he sells **Saskatraz Queens** and **Saskatraz Bee Packages** for local pickup.

Nature's Way Farm (Lowman, New York). “Our Hybrids have been developed over 25 years of raising and breeding bees. Primarily winter hardy Carniolan Stock with deep genetic roots which include Buckfast, Varroa resistant **VSH** stock and Minnesota Hygienic Stock. This stock runs smaller, very efficient winter clusters and has shown superior mite tolerance. These bees tend to be dark in color, are consistent honey producers and a good gentle stock to work with. Our Hybrids are currently the chosen stock kept at the world-Famous NYC Botanical Gardens.” <https://goo.gl/kTAzow>. Joel is a knowledgeable and friendly person to work with. We arranged to pick up a nuc from him when he was travelling to Manhattan for honey sales.

California

Olivarez Honey Bees (California, Montana, Hawaii's Big Island). "We've infused the "Minnesota Hygienic" and the **VSH** traits into our Italian stock, in an effort to enhance disease and mite resistance or tolerance.” They ship UPS Next Day Air. In addition to selling **VSH** Italian queens (<https://goo.gl/8uyGwe>), OHB sells **Saskatraz Queens** <https://goo.gl/uYe6q3>.

Wildflower Meadows (Vista, California) “We cross the best mite resistant **VSH** queens with the most productive hygienic Italian lines, then cross them again with extraordinarily gentle Italian bees, and then yet again with mite resistant USDA Pol-Line stock.” They ship UPS Next Day Air. <https://goo.gl/wosuhw>

Connecticut

Full Bloom Apiaries (Franklin, Connecticut). “Our "Connecticut Carniolan" queens are grafted from winter proven, instrumentally inseminated Carniolan breeder stock. Since we started raising queens in 2006, we have used breeder stock primarily from Sue Cobey’s New World Carniolan line. The last couple of years we have added breeder stock from VP Queen Bee’s Spartan line. Each year our breeder stock is tested through a winter prior to grafting. <https://goo.gl/rhVpWW>. The VP Spartan Line is a **VSH** Queen strain: <https://goo.gl/d9FM5x>.

New Jersey

E&M Gold Beekeepers (Tinton Falls, New Jersey). From time to time they have **VSH** queens for pick up in NJ. “For the past 10 years we have been breeding Carniolan and VSH queens which Mary breeds from the 1st week of May to the 1st week of August.” Mary and Ed Kosenski, <https://goo.gl/jPF8dD>

Ohio

Queen Right Colonies (Spencer, Ohio). Sells **Saskatraz Queens** (<https://goo.gl/2jPtsi>) and **Saskatraz Bee Packages** (<https://goo.gl/ocP8GD>). Must phone for shipping.

Pennsylvania

Beam’s Bees (New Freedom, Pennsylvania). “We specialize in 5-frame honeybee nucs and Queens produced from our overwintered stock.” - <https://goo.gl/fCu1ZW>

Draper's Super Bee Apiaries (Millerton, Pennsylvania). They ship Italian and Carniolan queens and bee packages. <https://goo.gl/CkM6wM>

Gingrich Apiaries (Dover, Pennsylvania). “**VSH** Carniolan, Queens, Virgins”, Mark Gingrich, mgingrich@gingrichapiaries.com or 717-292-1249

Log Cabin Bee Farm (Hellam, Pennsylvania). “Our queens are raised locally in Pennsylvania. We strive to produce and sell quality queens that meet or exceed our high standards. Our stock improvement goals are: mite and disease resistance (**VSH**), overwintering, high honey production, and gentleness.” William Sprenkle <https://goo.gl/QFuY6m>

Meadow View Beekeeping (Kutztown, Pennsylvania). “Our queens are generated from strong, locally over-wintered colonies that are good honey producers and are fairly gentle to work. Strong winter survival is the primary factor used in selecting our breeding stock.” <https://goo.gl/Y8yk84>

South Carolina

Blythewood Bee Co. (Blythewood, South Carolina). “Blythewood Bee Company now carries **VSH** Carniolan Queens from Olivarez Queens in Hawaii. These queens are hygienic.” When in

stock, they cost \$35.00/queen and shipping is \$10.00. Queens are sent via priority mail.
<https://goo.gl/kS4kpn>

Tennessee

Ridge Top Apiaries (Baxter, Tennessee). “Our goal at Ridge Top Apiary is to produce **VSH** Queens of the highest quality at a reasonable price.” <https://goo.gl/zQ69kF>

Wolf Creek Apiaries (Centerville, Tennessee). Bee Packages and queens. They ship via the US Post Office. “We are committed to the organic management of honey bees and have never used toxic chemicals. Our breeder stock is special in that it is a unique combination of Russian, Italian, and Carniolan genetics.” <https://goo.gl/P8TRXY>

Vermont

Green Mountain Bee Farm (Fairfax, Vermont). “Our Vermont queens are a Carniolan x **VSH** cross, openly mated in the northern Champlain Valley. We rear our queens from select breeding stock that has proven survivability to northern Vermont winters, are good honey producers, and are gentle to work.” They also provide overwintered nucs for pickup. <https://goo.gl/sKzST1>