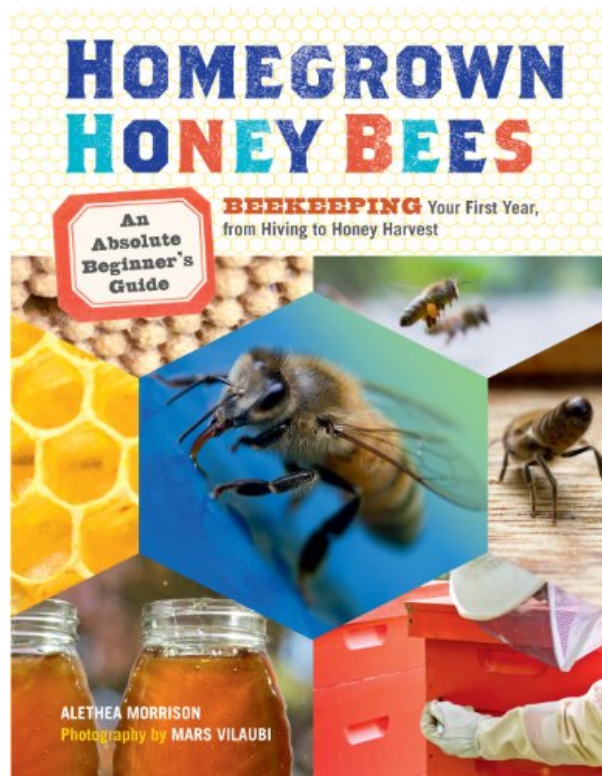
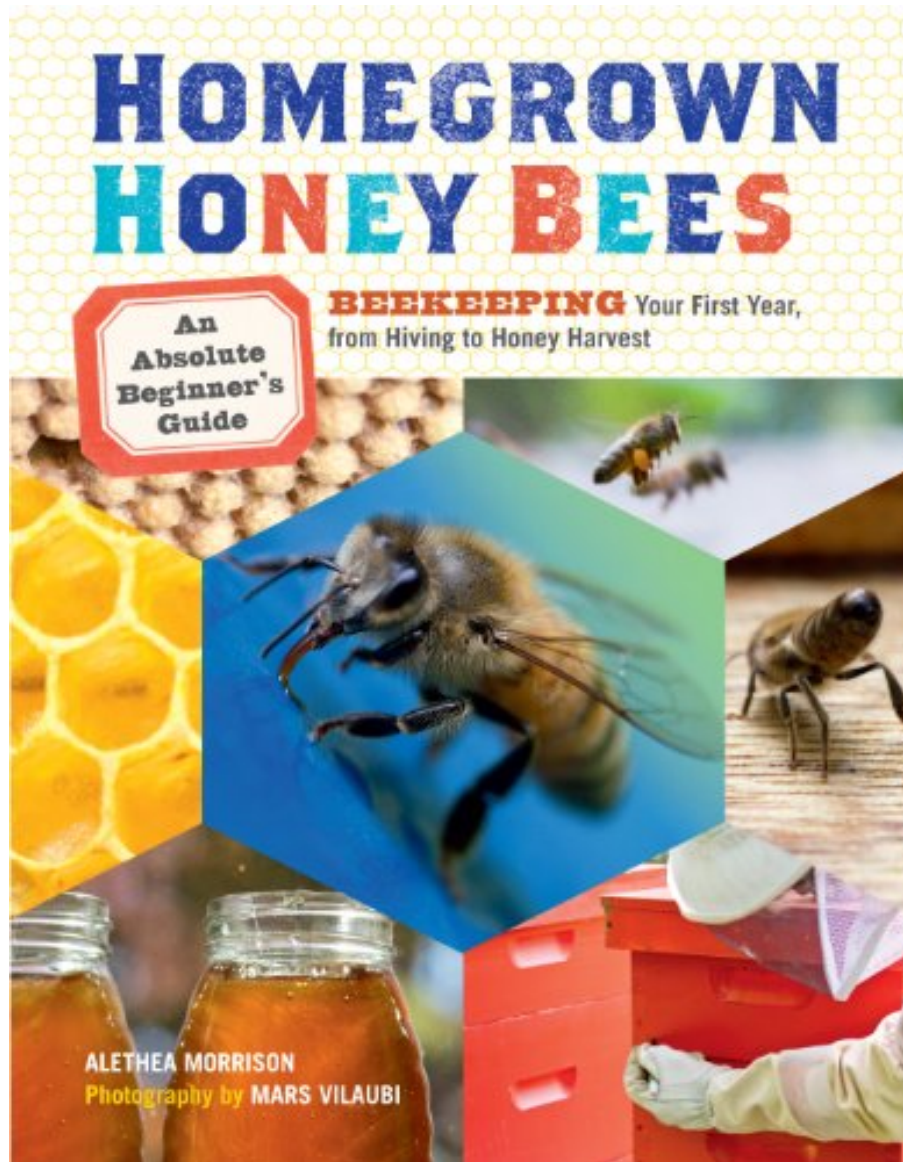


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ABSOLUTE BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO  
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HIVING TO HONEY HARVEST BY ALETHEA  
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## Review

Homegrown Honey Bees introduces the basic procedures, possibilities, and pleasures of keeping bees. Spectacular macro photography brings the inner workings of the hive to life, while the passionate, playful text leads the beginning beekeeper through the first year. All the primary concerns and questions are addressed, from allergies, permits and restrictions, and potential issues with the neighbors to hive structure, colony hierarchy, and bee behavior. Beekeepers Alethea Morrison and Mars Vilaubi chronicle the happening in their own hive and share the challenges of their first year, from replacing a failing queen bee to sustaining a colony over a cold winter, as well as the reward of tasting their first honey harvest. Beginners, dreamers, families, and educators will find this highly visual reference an indispensable guide to becoming a confident, happy beekeeper.

(Jenna Woginrich, author of Barnheart and Made from Scratch)

This book is exactly what its subtitle describes it as - an absolute beginner's guide to keeping bees. Written and illustrated in full color by a couple who not too long ago were neophyte beekeepers themselves, it aims to first capture readers' interest in the fun and fascination of this hobby and then give them basic information needed to get through their first year keeping bees.

From the Back Cover

Beekeeping 1-2-3

Essential information to see you through the first year -- from inspecting the hive to avoiding stings

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#### About the Author

Alethea Morrison is the author of *Homegrown Honey Bees*. She lived in San Francisco with her husband, photographer Mars Vilaubi, before stepping into the wild yonder of rural Massachusetts together to raise their son, keep bees and chickens, brew beer, sew clothes, grow heirloom beans, and otherwise slow down to smell the flowers of a handmade life. Their experience raising chickens was chronicled in *Chick Days*. Morrison works as the Creative Director at Storey Publishing and serves as president of the Northern Berkshire Beekeepers Association.

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Discover the joys of harvesting honey from your own backyard. Alethea Morrison outlines what you'll need to know to make it through the first year, while stunning macrophotography by Mars Vilaubi brings the inner workings of the hive to life. With in-depth discussions of allergies, colony hierarchy, bee behavior, and more, this approachably informative guide bursts with enthusiastic encouragement. Keep your own bees, and enjoy the sweet buzz.

- Sales Rank: #38697 in Books
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- Model: WMP1603429948
- Published on: 2013-01-29
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .69" w x 7.06" l, 2.00 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 160 pages

## Features

- Pet Supply

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Photographer Mars Vilaubi chronicled the adventures of his three backyard hens from their first days out of the egg through their first days laying eggs in *Chick Days*. He lives in western Massachusetts.

Most helpful customer reviews

34 of 34 people found the following review helpful.

Best Beekeeping Book for Beginners

By Chantal Forster

This is the book I wish existed when I started beekeeping in 2008. Loaded with photos and step-by-step instructions, it's one of the few books that will help you survive your first year, especially if you don't have a mentor. As the co-chair of the Albuquerque beekeepers group (400 strong) for the past 3 years, here's why I think beginner beeks will be especially well-supported by the approach in this book.

PROS:

- STEP-BY-STEP instructions are included for a variety of beginner tasks like installing a package, lighting a smoker, and conducting your first hive check. Seasoned beekeepers often forget how scary these first steps can be.

- PHOTOS, PHOTOS, PHOTOS! Everything from eggs and larvae to wax festooning to varroa mites to Nasonov fanning gets a gorgeous photo. I can't emphasize enough the importance of visual learning when it comes to beekeeping.

- A PERSONAL STORYLINE. This book follows the author's experience keeping backyard bees with her family. The good the bad and the ugly details are all included, making for a very forgiving and human narrative.

- INTERVIEWS WITH LOCAL BEEKS. Backyard beekeepers from San Francisco to Austin to Chicago are highlighted throughout the book. (I'm on page 47.) The sheer variety of beekeepers presented makes a new beek feel comfortable developing their own unique approach.

- A NATURAL APPROACH. Most books I used in my first year were very chemical-centric and solely devoted to Langstroth hives. This book primarily covers Langstroth hives but also discusses top bar hives and pays more than just lip-service to a chemical-free approach.

#### CONS:

- Once you have a full year of beekeeping under your belt, you'll want to move on to more substantial reference books like "The Beekeeper's Handbook" or "The Practical Beekeeper."

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

**THIS BOOK HAS IT ALL!!!!!!!!!!**

By Samantha Anastasiou

Hello,

Let me pre-face my review by saying I don't normally write reviews, but, here goes.

I had to on this one, because, this book has been wonderfully enjoyed by me and my two kids for many reasons.

It is a wonderfully written, informative how to book that takes you through something as daunting to myself as bee-keeping and it has opened up a whole new world of fun possibilities for me and my two kids! Seriously!

I bought the book on a whim, for many reasons, one, I like collecting books on crafting, do-it-your self projects, you name it, and.... I always have this goal of farm to table adventures, and bee-keeping is for me the top.... a secret wish that I never thought I'd actually be able to do.

Then arrives this book!

Firstly, it is really well-written. Not one of those how to books you just thumb through and mark pages...it has great stories about people doing small hives and showing you how you can too! I love that, it is very personal, and you instantly feel part of a fun community. It is easy to understand, and keeps you engaged with facts and everything you need to know-isms without being pretentious, dull, or repetitive. My daughter did a science project on honey bees and how important they are to our eco-system, and she was excited that that information was in there, too, a long with so much more we didn't know. We read the whole book together in just a couple of days, and have started our own plan! We are REALLY EXCITED!!

There are a lot of really great photos, and the photos are just beautiful, it is such a picturesque book, and I can't say enough of how the book is just really, really cute, and pretty, I love all the artwork and the layout of the pages, and the way the sections and chapters are organized, it is wonderful to remember it all, it flows really nicely.... It was really fun reading with my kids, and we are excited about starting our own hive this spring, it's really fun to think of all that is possible and involved with bee-keeping, who knew? You have to get this book and find out!!! I definitely recommend this book to anyone who is interested in something to read about with their kids, or who loves crafts, hobbies, gardening, and, of course bees!



I will definitely be looking for more books from this author!

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

For beginners only

By Nate B.

Very good bee-ginners book. I would not recommend this to anyone who has read other bee books though. The information is useful but very basic. Newbee and not sure about beekeeping?- great first book

See all 72 customer reviews...

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