BEEHIVE PROTECTION

WELLSCROFT
FENCE SYSTEMS, LLC

SEASONAL or TEMPORARY

To keep bears and skunks out of bee hives, Wellscroft Fence Systems recommends a standard 35" ElectroNet® or QuikGround ElectroNet®, sold in either an 82' or 164' length, powered by a plug-in (110V), battery (12V) or solar energizer. Electric netting is easy to set up and take down, making it very convenient when accessing or moving hives. In addition, electric net systems are more durable and less cumbersome than other systems (i.e. polywire or tape). Electric netting is used extensively by the Fish & Game Department as well as by many large commercial apiaries to protect their investments.

SEMI-PERMANENT

For semi-permanent bee yards Wellscroft Fence Systems recommends a four strand low tension wire or tape electric fence. This multi-strand fence may be constructed from electric rope/tape, MaxiShock™, or 14 gauge wire spaced above the ground at 8", 16", 24", and 32" with optional 44" and 63" wires. This method tends to be less effective at keeping out skunks.

PERMANENT

Permanent fencing around hives is typically constructed using hi-tensile woven wire with an electric offset at the top. These systems are more involved to install and are usually more expensive. Our staff can help with design and devise a quote.

BASIC MATERIALS

- ElectroNet® 35" x 82' or 164' (QuikGround net is optional)
- Five fiber rods ½" x 4' with clips for corners and energizer stand
- Energizer - plug-in (110V), battery (12V) or solar
- Ground rod, 3' or 4' galvanized steel
- Extra 4' leads for placing energizer out of reach of the bear
- Multi-light fence tester
- Electric fence warning signs

***Above:** Two hives enclosed in a 35" x 82' ElectroNet® which is powered by a solar Speedrite S500 energizer. Notice that the netting has been doubled back on the right side to store the excess.*

***Above:** These two hives are enclosed in a 35" x 50' ElectroNet® Plus which makes a nice enclosure for backyard hobbyists. The fence is powered by a Patriot SolarGuard 155 energizer mounted on a support T-post inside the enclosure to prevent tampering by bears.*

RECOMMENDATIONS & BEST PRACTICES

- Grounding is one of the most important factors in electric fence systems. In very dry conditions, it may be necessary to lay a narrow strip of chicken wire on the outside of the net to connect to the ground field for the energizer.
- Baiting electric fences involves attracting animals to the fence to receive a strong head shock. This practice greatly improves the efficacy of the fence by teaching the predators what the fence will do. We recommend regular baiting by securely attaching to the fence one or more of the following: strips of aluminum foil smeared with peanut butter, strips of bacon, or a partially opened can of tuna fish.
- Maintaining vegetation under either net or multiple smooth wire fences is easily accomplished by putting down a 12" wide strip of landscape cloth or black felt paper under the fence.
- Do not put the energizer directly on the ground as insects and moisture can damage the electronics. Once each season, a quick spray of insecticide inside the case of the energizer will prevent insects from invading and shorting out the circuit board.
- Place the energizer inside the fence area so that a bear does not accidentally disconnect or damage it while investigating the fence.
- In dry or snow situations, using POS/NEG netting or alternating POS/NEG wires in a four wire system gives the bear a strong shock when it touches both the positive and negative wires at the same time.
- If using a multi-strand fence system, Wellscroft recommends incorporating at least one strand of ½" electric tape in conjunction with wire strands. This adds visibility and movement to the fence.

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