

<i>BEE RACE</i>	<i>Italian</i>	<i>German</i>	<i>Caucasian</i>	<i>Carniolan</i>	<i>African</i>	<i>Cordovan SUBSET</i>	<i>Buckfast HYBRID</i>	<i>Russian HYBRID</i>	<i>Africanized HYBRID</i>
PROS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good beginner bee • Readily builds comb • Unparalleled comb builders • Only moderate tendency to swarm • Relatively easy and calm to work with • Lower range propolis producer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well adapted to cold climates; • Overwinter long and cold winters exceptionally well; • Needs very moderate food supplies: • develop fertile workers more readily 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tolerant to a harsh winter environment; • not overly inclined to swarm; • calm behavior when on comb; • less prone to robbing • good resistance to some diseases; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • incredibly docile • explosive spring buildup • rank among the best for overwintering, • very good builders of wax combs, good honey gatherers. • Low tendency to rob other colonies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher rates of colony growth and reproduction compared to European bees. • resistant to Varroa destructor mite and Nosema virus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they appreciate warm weather; • More docile than their Italians; • Superb comb builders; • can be bred into any race of honeybee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very gentle, productive • excellent housecleaning techniques • Very good overwintering ability • Excellent honey producers • Low swarm instinct • very small amounts of propolis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • highly resistant to parasites • overwinter well. • Adaption of brood in times of dearth • guard their hive vigilantly, • Good housecleaning • tend to have queen cells almost all the time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent honey producer: • Very defensive against predators; • Resistant to Varroa mites; • Well suited to tropical climates; • reproduce faster
CONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous brood rearing continues after honey flow ceases • More likely to starve during long winters • Poor flight orientation, highly prone to drifting • Aggressive foragers, causing tendency to rob 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less productive in terms of honey than some other races; • They are slow to build up the colony in spring; • nervous and excitable on the comb and aggressive to interference; • Moderate swarming; • Poor housekeepers, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in spring, they build up the colony quite slowly • excessive propolis production • In some cases, they make makes wet capped comb, which is poor for honey comb sale; • susceptible to Nosema disease 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • excessive swarming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preference for pollen not focused on honey production • Excessive swarming • Only for tropical areas • Highly aggressive and defensive behavior 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consume large amounts of food in winter; • May perform poorly under cold wet conditions; • more prone to robbing than Italians. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • similar robbing tendency like Italians; • Moderate spring population buildup • If colonies are left unmanaged for one or two generations, they can become extremely defensive and aggressive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brood rearing is highly dependent on forage availability • Increased swarming • Tend to propolize • Susceptible to infection by Nosema fungus • Aggressive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extremely defensive and highly aggressive, • Smaller nests; • Frequent swarming ; • Difficult to keep near to human habitations and livestock; • Overwinters poorly in temperate climates.
FUN FACT	<i>They are considered to be strong honey producers also because of their tendency to rob other colonies and take away their honey.</i>	<i>Despite developing worker bees more quickly than other races, the German bees are less productive.</i>	<i>They have a long tongue.</i>	<i>Some beekeepers say they neither have to use protective clothing nor smoke when inspecting the hives!</i>	<i>In Africa, managed honeybees can abscond from hives to become wild again, and therefore the wild and managed honeybees are all related.</i>	<i>It is not clear what caused the Cordovan bees to separate themselves from Italian strains and become their own race of bees.</i>	<i>When crossed with some different races, sometimes the second generation becomes an extremely aggressive colony.</i>	<i>They engage in “head butting” rather than stinging potential threats!</i>	<i>The media call them "Killer bees": If perceived as a threat, they are able to chase a person up to a quarter of a mile.</i>