USER MANUAL

Hive Mind

A field log for South African beekeepers

Everything in the app, in the order you will use it: your apiary and hives, the bees inside them, the honey you take off, and the habitat and local ecosystem the whole thing depends on.

Setting	Detail
App	Hive Mind
Web address	The published address shown in your browser
Built for	Small-scale beekeepers in South Africa
Default region	Gauteng, with three more South African provinces and five international regions
Document	November 2026

Tip: print this manual and keep it in the bee shed. Every screen also carries the same navigation bar, so you can jump between the hive log, map, colony plan, season checklist and summary.

1. Getting started

Hive Mind is one place for four linked jobs: the apiary (where hives stand), the bees (what you see at each inspection), the honey (harvests against a target) and the habitat (what is in flower around you and when). Everything is tied to a region so the advice matches your ground, not a book written for somewhere else.

Create an account

- Open the app and choose Hive log.
- Enter your email address and tap Send me a code.
- Type the six-digit code from your inbox. No password to remember.
- Your apiary now opens on any device you sign in on, and stays private to your account.

New accounts start on the Starter plan: a 30-day free period covering up to five hives. Keeper is £5 and Apiary is £60 for larger set-ups. If the free period has ended, the hive log still opens for reading, exporting and removing hives, but adding new records pauses until you pick a plan.

The navigation bar

Every page has the same bar: Guide, Colony plan, Hive log, Map, Season checklist, Summary and Forage. The current page is underlined. On the right, the region chip shows which local calendar is driving the advice; tap it to jump to the region selector in the hive log.

2. The hive log

This is the working heart of the app. Each hive keeps its own profile, diary, inspections, varroa treatments, harvests, stores, winter checks and queen history.

Add and describe a hive

- Tap Add hive, give it a name and the stand it sits on.
- Record hive type, colony source, queen year and install date in the profile.
- Set a harvest target in kilograms and a varroa mite threshold for that colony.

What each record holds

Record	What you enter	Why it matters
Diary	Dated notes with a time stamp	Keeps the small observations you would otherwise forget
Inspection	Date, temper, queen seen, brood pattern, frames of brood, stores, mites, notes	Spots a failing queen or a patchy brood nest early
Varroa treatment	Product, dates, mite drop before and after, broodless yes/no	Shows whether a treatment actually worked
Harvest	Date, kilograms, supers taken	Tracks yield against the target and the season
Stores and winter checks	Stores in kilograms and the winter checklist	Flags a colony that may run short before spring
Queen history	Queenright, virgin or queenless events	Explains a gap in brood or a change in temper

Filters, exports and printouts

- Filter the inspection history by hive and read the trend chart above it.
- The harvest chart groups seasons so you can compare colonies year on year.

- Export inspections downloads every inspection from every hive as a CSV file.
- Printable summary gives a one-page sheet per apiary for the ring binder or a PDF.

3. Region, habitat and the local ecosystem

Beekeeping advice only works if it matches the ground. The region selector in the hive log sets the local calendar used across the app: forage plants and their bloom months, the broodless window for varroa treatment, winter stores guidance and the map.

What the region changes

- Forage calendar: which plants yield nectar near you, month by month, with the peak month marked.
- Bloom status: pins and lists show whether a plant should be in flower today.
- Broodless window: the reminder panel tells you when a brood break makes a varroa treatment count.
- Winter readiness: stores targets and the checklist adjust to your climate.

Nine regions are included: Gauteng by default, plus the Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and the Free State, and Brandenburg, Willamette, Minnesota, the Central Valley and Canterbury for beekeepers elsewhere. Changing the region only changes guidance, never your hive records.

Forage calendar

Open the Colony plan and scroll to Forage. Each plant shows its Latin name, typical bloom range, the months in flower and a note on where it grows. Every row has a Pin on map button so you can walk to the patch and record it.

4. Map: apiary and forage pins

The map turns the apiary and its surroundings into something you can see. Both hive pins and forage pins are saved to your account, so the same picture opens on any device you sign in on.

Placing a hive

- Stand at the hive and tap Use my location. The browser asks permission the first time.
- Tap Place here on the hive row. The pin is stored with your apiary.
- Tap a hive pin on the map to open that hive's log with the hive already selected.
- Use Move here to re-place a pin, or Remove pin to clear it.

Marking forage

- Choose a plant from the regional calendar, name the patch, then tap Mark this spot.
- Or start from the forage calendar: Pin on map opens the map with the plant and name filled in.
- Pins in bloom now are ringed on the map, and the peak month is honey coloured.
- Use the filters above the map: All pins, Hives only, Forage only, In bloom now, plus a plant filter.

Editing and removing forage pins

The Saved forage pins list under the map shows each pin's plant, bloom range and a twelve-month strip. Tap Edit to change the pin name, the plant name and the first, last and peak months without losing the location. Remove deletes the pin from your account.

Location is only read when you tap the button, never in the background. Hive and forage coordinates are stored with your account.

5. Colony plan and the beginner's guide

The Colony plan walks through the season in six steps, from setting up the stand to taking the crop, with the forage calendar and the broodless window built in. The Guide covers the kit to buy, how a hive is built, and how to judge a site before the first bee arrives, with indicative rand budgets for the kit.

Planning tools

- Season checklist: month-by-month jobs you can tick off; progress is kept per hive.
- Annual record: one printable sheet per hive for the season, covering inspections, harvests, treatments and queens.
- Season report: a printable end-of-season review.
- Summary: the one-page apiary overview for the shed wall.

6. Data, privacy and the legal note

- Records are tied to your email address and are only readable by you.
- Hives, inspections, harvests, treatments and map pins sync to your account; nothing is shared with other beekeepers.
- Essential storage keeps you signed in. Visit statistics are only counted if you accept them from the cookie banner, and you can change that choice from the cookie settings button.
- The terms and cookie policy are linked in the footer of every page.
- Figures and advice are given in good faith. E.&O.E.; Terms and conditions apply.

7. If something does not work

Symptom	What to try
Location refused	Allow location for the site in the browser, then tap Use my location again. Outdoors gives a better fix.
Sign-in code not arriving	Check spam, then request a new code. Codes expire quickly.
Records missing on a new device	Sign in with the same email address. Records follow the account, not the device.
Cannot add a hive or treatment	The Starter free period may have ended, or the hive limit for the plan is reached. Reading, exporting and removing still work.
Map looks empty	Place a hive or mark a forage patch first; the map needs at least one pin to frame itself.

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