

Protective Clothing

While no clothing is entirely bee sting proof, special clothing has been designed to keep beekeepers as cool as possible while providing a high level of protection from bee stings. The following clothing is recommended:

Bee suit (Figure 1). Usually made from cotton/polyester, a bee suit should be worn loosely over the body. When using the complete coverall type of suit, there are two types of **veils** that can be used; 1) a veil that is fitted over a **helmet** made of straw or plastic or 2) a hatless veil which does not need a helmet although a baseball type hat with a brim helps to keep the veil away from the beekeeper's face. The veil can be designed to be connected to the bee suit with a zipper or attached around the body by string.



Gloves (Figure 2). Gloves can be of cloth or leather and has ventilation panels on the sleeve area. The gloves are worn over the hands and lower sleeve portion of the bee suit.



Covered shoes are needed when working with bees. When the bees are more aggressive, leg straps or tape to close the suit legs are recommended. Leg straps are used to close the bottom of the bee suit pant legs so that the bees do not crawl up into the suit. Another less expensive method is to use masking or duct tape to attach the bottoms of the suit legs to the shoes (Figure 3).



the inside of