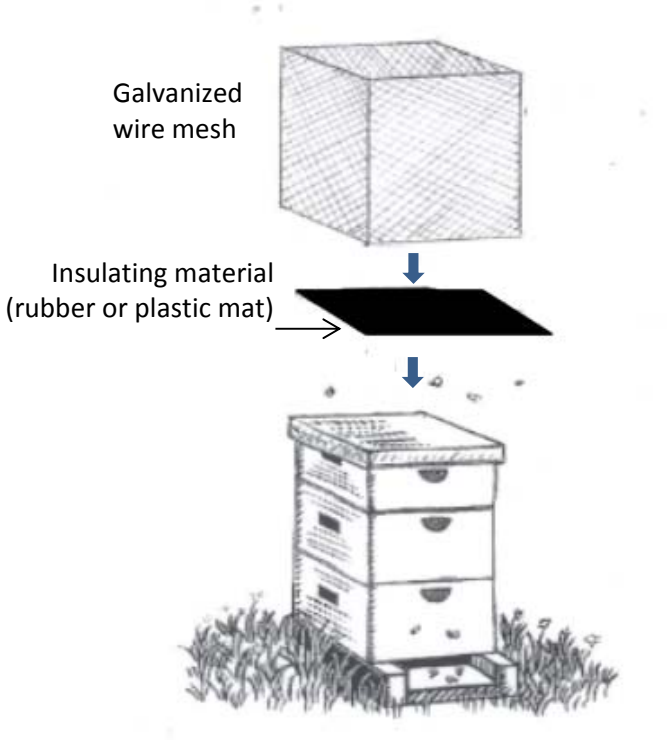
ELECTRIFIED BEEHIVES
a.k.a The Hanger Hive Guard

Protecting beehives from bear damage is both easy and inexpensive. In addition to conventional electric fencing, this design has had proven success in Virginia, and may be more practical for certain situations than conventional electric fence set-ups.

You will need:

1. High voltage fence charger with minimum rating of 0.7 joules.
2. 10- 12 gauge insulated wire.
3. Galvanized wire mesh, chicken wire or hardware cloth.
4. Rubber or plastic non-conductive mat.
5. Metal ground rod 3 ½ feet minimum.



Make a cage to fit over the top of the hive out of the hardware cloth or chicken wire. Leave the bottom open. Make the cage big enough so that it does not make contact with the sides of the hive.

Cut a rubber/plastic mat to size for the top of the hive. Place the mat on top of the hive and drop the wire cage over the top.

You may want to secure the hive with a strap. If so place a strap over the hive but under the mat and wire cage. Securing the hive on a wooden pallet is another option (see below).

Fence charger & power source

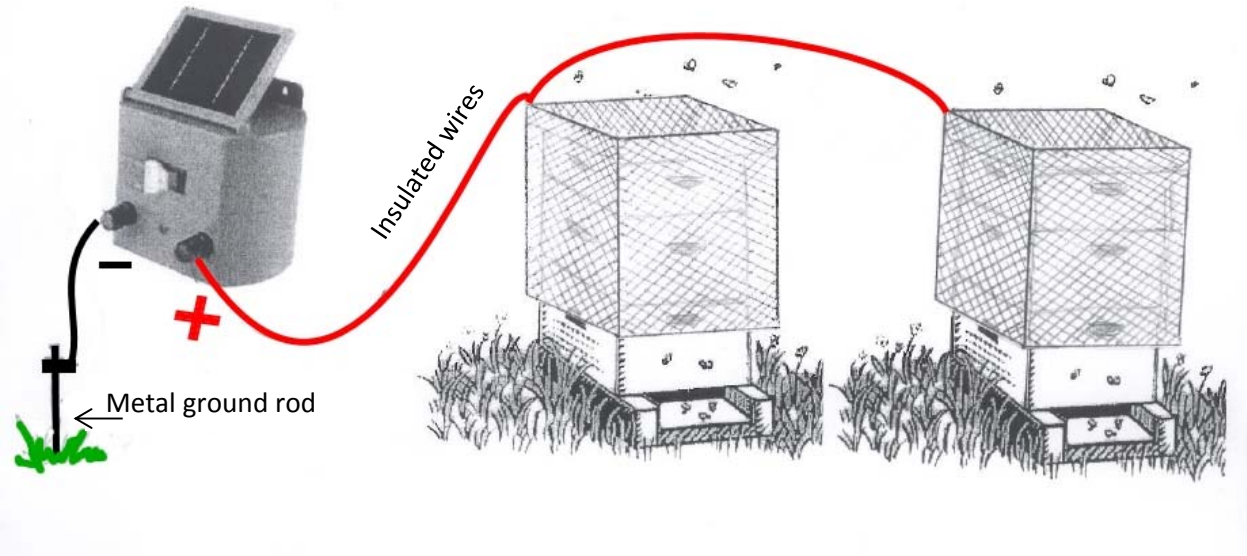


Photo: Courtesy of D. Barnes, VA resident and excellent beekeeper

- Attach the fence charger securely to a post. You should consider building a protective box around the charger or setting it at least 8 feet from the hives if possible.
- Drive the ground rod into soil at least 2.5 - 3 feet, more depending on distance to hives.
- Attach an insulated wire from the positive terminal to the metal cage over the hive.
- Attach an insulated wire from the negative terminal to the ground rod.

Simultaneous contact with the adjacent ground (soil) and hive is necessary to complete the circuit resulting in a shock.

For more details on electric fence set up and specifications for bears see VDGIF publication "Electric Fencing for Bears".