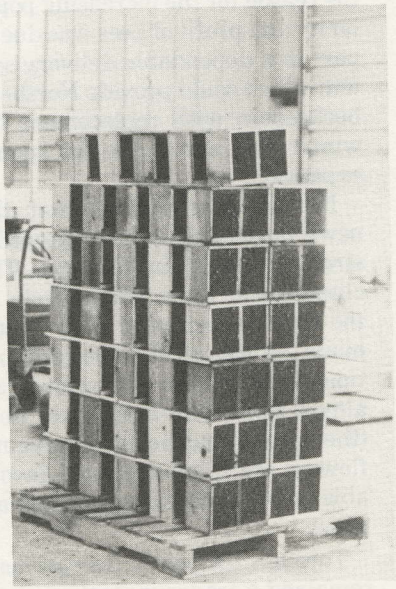
# Package Bees and Queens

*Georgia's commercial bee industry may be considered a "late bloomer" compared to other agricultural commodities. But since the establishment of bee and package queen production over 60 years ago, the state has blossomed into one of the top suppliers in the nation.*

Although honeybees are considered one of the world's oldest domestic animals, it only has been in the last century that man has learned how to effectively manage and produce the insects. In Colonial America, early settlers brought honeybees with them from England. During this time bees often were maintained in hollow trees



**Raising package bees is a continuous process. Excess populations are shaken from the hives into shipping crates every 10 to 12 days. Bees are sold by the pound, most commonly in two, three or five pound packages. There are an estimated 3500-4000 bees per pound (left).**

**The insects are shipped in special screened crates which include a food supply. Three or more cages of package bees often are crated together for shipping throughout the United States and Canada (right).**