

Introduction to Beekeeping

Course Schedule

by
Edward P, Nowak

WEEK
March 30

TOPIC

Check students protective bee clothing for coverage-suits, gloves, protective bee veils and helmets; tools ie. smoker, fuel, hive tool and container to carry tools.

Demonstrations:

1. How to light the bee smoker and keep it going..

2. How to approach the apiary..

Do not walk across the bees flight path .

Approach the apiary from the back or side of the hives.

3. **First inspection of the season.**

Visually observe the flight activity to identify live or dead over-wintered hives. Remove protective winter wrap and verify dead or alive hive by seeing live bees.

Live hives:

. Check for food stores; if needed use the clean honey frames from the non- diseased dead hives and if not available feed sugar syrup. Scrape bottom board & remove the first brood super.

Dead hives

Inspect each super, saving empty clean combs and bad frames culled for wax- rendering. Store the clean scraped equipment on the hive stand; culled supers with bad combs returned to the honey house for wax- rendering, sterilizing in lye- bath during the season for additional winter re-work for use the next season.

April 06

Inspect the living over-wintered hive. Dis-assemble one hive at a time.

The tear down of the hive is very critical and should be done in the precise manner as demonstrated to prevent dealing with irate bees.

During this inspection, identification of worker bees, queens, drones, eggs, larvae (brood), honey, pollen and condition of the frames, hive strength, number of frames of brood is determined. Each student will be required to do this identification inspection of the hive.

Identify strong/weak hives to equalize colony strength, colonies to split, colonies needing a new queen and diseased AFB hives.

Please note that the hive exposure will be 5 minutes and no longer to maintain a calm working attitude with the bees.

April 27

Install packages bees, on the dead site equipment. Make nucs.

inspect a hive and identify bee stock ie., queen, workers, drones, honey, pollen and general condition of the hive. Very important for the student to identify and analyze the condition of the hive ie. Brood pattern, laying queen, swarm cells, food stores and strength.

A honey flow is in progress .

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May 04	<p>Install additional packages and queens into splits and divides. Check all hives for swarm cells. If swarm cells are present split the hive .Add a honey super on each hive a honey flow is on.</p> <p>Check each hive for swarm cells,you do not want any swarms.Swarming depletes the old hive of worker who produce a honey crop..Swarms petrify neighbors in the area and create trouble for Beekeepers in general.</p>
May 18	<p>Repeat swarm cell check, check for need of honey supers and look in the trees for hanging swarms..A lack of hive activity warrants a hive inspection, open swarm cells</p> <p>indicating virgin queens in the hive .A GOOD TIME FOR MAKING NUCS TO PREVENT AFTER SWARMS . ADD MORE HONEY SUPERS.</p>
June 8 & 22	<p>The swarming season should be over, however, repeat May 18 requirements. Remove full honey supers to be extracted and add empty honey supers to the hives The honey supers should be covered to prevent robbing and move them to the honey house. Demo how to extract the honey supers.</p>
July 06&20	<p>The season is at its peak . You are beginning to function as beekeepers The hives are bulging with honey and bees .Splits and divides are hives no longer 4 frame nucs. It is time to do something with the.m. Consolidate or save for requeening in August. This decision depends on apiary status.Visually check each hive for activity, Inspect where necessary even though you think your working with alligators.</p>
Aug 10&17	<p>Strip the hives of all honey supers but leaving 1 full honey super on each hive.</p> <p>Cover your honey supers and get them away to the honey house;otherwise you will create a robbing situation that you don't want to experience.</p> <p>Powdered sugar treatment for every hive for varroa mites. Formic acid mite away pad treatment will be applied i f necessary. .August is the transitional change of brood by the queen from the summer bee to the winter bee that will survive and face the rigors of winter . to keep the hive alive for the next season.</p>
Sep 16	<p>Requeen only the over wintered hive with the splits and divides made during the season. Remove any medication from all hives before requeening ..All hives are to be established to the basic 4 super winter hive arrangement , not counting the requeening super . Basic 4 super winter hive consists of brood supers and 2 honey supers requeening super is in between. Honey is stored in the honey house. I , repeat honey supers are to be covered while in use to prevent a robbing situation. Any left over splits or divides are to be combined into basic winter hives</p> <p>Note:Install your entrance reducer on each hive to keep out mice. Feed sugar syrup to the hives to provide adequate over wintering food supply.</p>

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Oct 17	Remove all requeening supers from hives and put on top of each hive on the inner cover. Inner cover should be in the winter position . Begin to winter wrap the hive with 20 pound roofing paper,secure the paper with baling twine , secure with slats, staple roofing paper , whatever mode. Tilt hive from rear with shims for water drainage ,entrance reducer in place,use bales of hay for a wind break if needed. Requeening supers on top of hives will be removed by Nov 1 All hives should be winterized(roofing paper wrapped)

Beekeeper Certificate will be awarded to all New Beekeepers. Congratulations !