

Introduction to Beekeeping  
Course Schedule - 2010  
By Mike Siarkowski

SPRING MANAGEMENT

SESSION 1, MARCH 28

- Introduction to beekeeping and setting goals for the season.
- Bring woodware (Hives, frames, etc.) to be constructed.
- Make check list of essential items that we will be using during the bee season.

SESSION 2, APRIL 11

- Continue to construct equipment.
- Start to setup bee yard.
- Install nucleus hives (nucs) or packages.
- Feeding bees - what, why, when and how to feed.

SESSION 3, APRIL 25

- Install packages.
- Discuss what to look for when inspecting a hive.
- Equalize overwintered hives.
- Feed and medicate where needed.

SESSION 4, MAY 2

- Inspect all hives for queens and brood.
- Discuss swarming.
- Install drone comb for Integrated Pest Management (IPM).
- Feed if needed.

SUMMER MANAGEMENT

SESSION 5, MAY 23

- Inspect drone comb, look for swarm cells.
- Add second brood chamber to new hives.
- Add honey supers to overwintered hives.
- Discuss Michigan honey flows.
- Discuss importance of nucs in the bee yard.

SESSION 6, JUNE 13

- Continuation of IPM.
- Queen rearing using cell punch.
- Super where needed.

#### SESSION 7, JUNE 27

- Check supers.
- Summer increase, make nucs, install queens.

#### SESSION 8, JULY 25

- IPM, monitor for Varroa.
- Pull honey, and extract honey.
- Inspect nucs.

#### SESSION 9, AUGUST 8

- IPM, check for mites, treat if necessary.
- Discuss types of treatments.
- Check nucs (feed).

#### SESSION 10, SEPTEMBER 5

- Inspect hive for mites, remove treatments.
- Discuss what to do with nucs.
- Discuss fall requeening using nucs.
- Decide to feed or super for fall honey.

#### SESSION 11, SEPTEMBER 26

- Getting ready for winter.
- How to move hives. (Students will take their hives to their new homes)