

A beekeeper's year

“things to remember to do”

Month by month notes

January

- Heft hives regularly to check weight
- Feed fondant as necessary
- Possibly treat Varroa with Oxalic Acid
- Check bees have access to water

February

- Heft hives regularly to check weight
- Feed fondant as necessary
- Possibly treat Varroa with Oxalic Acid
- Ensure bees have access to water
- Feed sugar syrup to weak colonies
- Add Fumidol B if Nosema suspected
- Construct new hives and prepare equipment

March

- Feed sugar syrup to weak colonies
- Add Fumidol B if Nosema suspected
- Ensure bees have access to water
- Construct new hives and prepare equipment



Bees love oil seed rape but remove the honey quickly.

April

- Feed sugar syrup to weak colonies
- Spring clean - Change floors, brood box and crown board
- Any suspected diseases get second opinion
- Add first supers to hive
- Monitor for Varroa

May

- Feed sugar syrup if foraging conditions are poor
- Check hives every 7-9 days for queen cells
- Split hives and make up artificial swarms

June

- Feed sugar syrup if foraging conditions are poor
- Mark queens
- Check hives every 7-9 days for queen Cells
- Split hives and make up artificial swarms
- Add supers well in advance to prevent congestion
- Extract Oil Seed Rape honey

July

- Feed sugar syrup if foraging conditions are poor
- Check hives every 7-9 days for queen cells
- Check for space, disease, stores, queen and swarming
- Add supers
- Extract Blossom honey

August

- Feed sugar syrup if foraging conditions are poor
- Check hives every 7-9 days for space, disease etc.
- Add supers
- Extract Blossom honey
- Cull and replace old queens
- Prevent robbing bees and wasps
- Treat for Varroa once supers are removed
- Feed sugar syrup after Varroa treatment

September

- Treat for Varroa once supers are removed
- Feed sugar syrup after Varroa treatment
- Prevent robbing bees and wasps
- Cull and replace old queens

October

- Complete winter feeding
- Prepare hives for winter - ventilation, mouse guards, woodpecker prevention etc.
- Clean and repair equipment



November

- Complete winter feeding
- Heft hives regularly to check weight
- Ensure bees have access to water

December

- Heft hives regularly to check weight
- Check hives for wind, rain damage etc
- Ensure bees have access to water
- Order new equipment for following year