

Month	Things to Do in the Beeyard
JAN	Sugarcube Candy Boards should be in place -- disturb bees as little as possible
FEB	During any warm weather breaks, check on available stores especially in nucs, add fondant to nucs if light
MAR	If weather permits (daily highs exceed 60°), do partial hive check to ascertain stores & if queen is laying; remove roofing felt & insulation, add fondant if needed. After Mar 1, begin Apivar (amitraz) for 42 days in all hives/nucs
APR	Full check for queenright, healthy hive: reverse hive bodies if needed, retire older comb, continue Apivar (amitraz) treatment by rotating position of strips, additional 1:1 or 1.5:1 syrup may be fed if needed beginning mid-Apr Check hives every 10 days, watching for signs of swarming -- move capped brood and bees from booming hives to weaker hives, checkerboard frames to relieve congestion and add honey supers with queen excluders if needed Transfer any overwintered nucs to single deep boxes, then to double deeps Remove Apivar treatment strips after 42-50 days in hives/nucs Position drone brood comb in brood nest so it is available for laying by queen (varroa control)
MAY	Check hives every 8-9 days, watching for signs of swarming -- remove capped brood and bees from booming hives and checkerboard frames to relieve congestion. If capped swarm cells found either: <i>Demaree Hive (Reconfigure)</i> OR <i>Move Old Queen to New Nuc</i> , eliminating all but 2 or 3 capped swarm cells & allow hive to raise new queen Continue feeding 1:1 or 1.5:1 syrup after initial spring bloom (fruit/maple) if hives are light Depending on weather, add initial honey supers with queen excluders to relieve congestion/prevent swarming Monitor drone brood comb (leaving in for maximum of 21 days) and freeze filled combs for varroa control By May 15: Add Oxalic Acid pads (50grOA/50Glycerin on Swedish sponges) between hive bodies for 75 days
JUN	Check hives every 8-9 days, watching for signs of swarming -- remove capped brood and bees from booming hives and checkerboard frames to relieve congestion. If capped swarm cells found either: <i>Demaree Hive (Reconfigure)</i> OR <i>Move Old Queen to New Nuc</i> , eliminating all but 2 or 3 capped swarm cells & allow hive to raise new queen Add more honey supers as needed during blackberry honey flow (begins early/mid Jun) Conduct Varroa alcohol wash count on all colonies by mid Jun to monitor varroa levels Continue to monitor drone brood comb (leaving in for maximum of 21 days) and freeze filled combs for varroa control. Start removal of drone brood comb as hives slow drone brood production from mid Jun onwards Rotate position of OAE pads at each inspection, optional replacement with fresh ones on Jun 20 In late Jun or early Jul purchase queens and create queen bank. Combine excess bees with new queens to create nucs for hive requeening and overwintering. Check nucs for varroa and feed w/pollen patties and syrup continuously until late Oct to get them heaved up for winter.
JUL	Check hives every 14 days and add honey supers as needed during honey flow (swarming should be over) Conduct Varroa alcohol wash count on all colonies by mid Jul to monitor varroa levels Watch out for robbing and lock down hives/nucs by restricting access via robber screens Pull Oxalic Acid pads after 75 days in late Jul Finish removing drone brood comb for freezer storage
AUG	On or around Aug 1: Remove honey supers to consolidate bees into 2 deeps Watch out for robbing and lock down hives/nucs by restricting access via robber screens Treat all Hives/Nucs with Apiguard (Thymol gel), three 33gr treatments 10 days apart for double deeps Begin Fall feeding of pollen patties by end of 2nd Apiguard treatment -- give them as much as they'll take (5-6 pounds per hive minimum) Feed 1 gallon of medium syrup (1.5:1) by end of 3rd Apiguard treatment to encourage brood production Extract honey, get bees to clean up supers & store supers
SEP	Finish Fall Varroa treatments and continue feeding of pollen patties until end of month, watch out for robbing Feed 1-2 gallons of heavy syrup (2:1 or 3:2) for winter heavy-up on all hives, transfer stored frames of honey to light hives from freezer and do additional 2:1 syrup feeding on any other light hives. Upper deep should HURT to lift Conduct Varroa alcohol wash count on all colonies by Sep 15, if any hive with >2% infestation then retreat all Hives/Nucs in same beeyard with Apivar, FormicPro (single strip) or Oxalic Acid vapor (3 treatments 5 days apart)
OCT	Mid-month -- Final full examination of hives Consolidate any weak hives for overwintering. Take your losses in the fall. Conduct Varroa alcohol wash count on all colonies by Oct 15, if any hive with >2% infestation then retreat all Hives/Nucs in same beeyard with Apivar, FormicPro (single strip) or Oxalic Acid vapor (3 treatments 5 days apart)
NOV	Cover all hives with roofing felt, make sure opening for upper ventilation is adequate to remove moisture but not too large, insulate overwintering nucs with foam boards & cover with roofing felt Make sugarcube candy boards to be added to hives upon completion of Oxalic Acid treatment
DEC	Early to mid Dec: Treat all colonies with Oxalic Acid trickle (50ml per full hive, 25ml per nuc) or Oxalic Acid Vapor (two applications of minimum 3.5gr per full hive, 1.75gr per nuc) & install SugarCube boards