

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 March 1st, 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, additional 1:1 or 1.5:1 syrup may be fed if needed beginning mid-April Remove Sugarcube candy boards and use remaining sugar to create syrup for Spring feeding Check hives every 10 days, watching for signs of swarming -- remove capped brood and bees from booming 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 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: Demaree Hive (Reconfigure) OR Move Old Queen to New Nuc , 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
JUN	Check hives every 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: Demaree Hive (Reconfigure) OR Move Old Queen to New Nuc , 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 June) Conduct Varroa alcohol wash count on all colonies by mid June, treat any hive with >1% infestation If Varroa treatment needed use formic acid (MAQs or Formic Pro) treatment, then check for queen survival Monitor drone brood comb (leaving in for maximum of 21 days) and freeze filled combs for varroa control In late June or early July 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 October 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 July, treat any hive with >1% infestation If Varroa treatment needed use formic acid (MAQs or Formic Pro) treatment, then check for queen survival Watch out for robbing and lock down hives/nucs by restricting access via robber screens Start removing drone brood comb (store in freezer) as hives slow drone brood production
AUG	On or before 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 If any hive had >1% infestation (near certainty) in mid July then treat all Hives/Nucs with Apiguard (Thymol gel) 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 2nd Apiguard treatment to encourage brood production Finish removing drone brood comb for freezer storage 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 September 10, if any hive with >2% infestation then retreat all Hives/Nucs in same beeyard with Apivar or Formic Acid (MAQs or Formic Pro)
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 mid October, if any hive with >2% infestation then retreat all Hives/Nucs in same beeyard with Apivar
NOV	Cover all hives with roofing felt, make sure upper ventilation is adequate to remove moisture, 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 December: Treat all colonies with Oxalic Acid trickle (50ml per full hive, 25ml per nuc) or Oxalic Acid Vapor (minimum 3gr per full hive, 1gr per nuc) & install SugarCube boards