



Fall Chores

Preparing For Winter

Goal

- Remove honey.
- Check for diseases.
 - Foulbrood
 - Small Hive Beetle
 - Varroa Mites
 - Tracheal Mites
- Prepare for fall flow.
- Insure adequate winter stores.
- Prepare for winter.



Fall Preparation

August to October

Remove Supers

- Remove filled and capped honey supers.
- Leave 1-2 supers for space if needed.
- Extract removed honey as soon as possible to reduce problems from SHB.
- Properly store empty comb.



Extract Honey



Check/Treat For Disease

- Check for Varroa Mites.
 - Use method of choice to determine mite load.
 - Treat with approved products.
- Look for Small Hive Beetles.
- Treat for Foulbrood.



Health of Hive is CRITICAL!

- Healthy hives at this time insures winter survivability.
- Strong hives can take better advantage of fall nectar flows.
 - Goldenrod
 - Aster

Colony Strength



- Feed 1 to 1 sugar syrup.
 - 1 water, 1 sugar
 - Stimulates colony.
- Feed pollen substitute.
- Requeen if needed.
- You want strong colonies going into fall!

Combine Weak Hives

- Combine weak hives with one another.
 - Difficult to overwinter a weak hive.
 - Take losses in the fall.
 - Weak hives tax resources and time, and seldom survive the winter.
- Just stack weak hives together, or use newspaper method.

Winter Preparation

Early October to Late November

Winter Management

- Check stores.
 - Each hive should have about 60-70 pounds of honey.
 - Feed 2 to 1 sugar syrup
 - 2 parts sugar to 1 part water.
 - You will need to heat water to get sugar to dissolve.
- Remove all excess honey supers.



Prepare Hive

- Add sugar candy tray.
 - 15 pounds sugar
 - 1 to 1 ½ pints of water.
 - Mix until sugar is damp, and press into candy tray.
 - Allow to dry for a week or so before placing on hive.
- Reduce entrance.
 - Prevents mice: wooden or hardware mesh.

Checking Hives

- Check hives periodically throughout the winter.
 - Hives can be opened for a short period of time even in the coldest weather.
 - During warm spells, colonies will break cluster and take cleansing flights.
 - Watch for 4 legged pests (skunks, possums, and raccoons)

