



- o put a queen excluder between the brood chambers and the super *a week after* the bees have put *something* in the super and are up there (making sure you don't trap the queen up there if there are eggs!)
  - o enlarge the entrance or remove the entrance reducer completely
- Blossoming: Maples to 4/2; Ornamentals and Fruit Trees, 3/13 - ; Dandelions (orange pollen), 3/18 - ; Redbud 3/30

April reproductive swarms / brood nest reduction for nectar

First 3 weeks,

- o enlarge the entrance if not done in March
- o check brood and queen *twice* for swarm preps (see late March)
- o continue to reverse hive bodies every 10 - 14 days, until the...

Third week (just before major - white wax - honey flow starts, ~ 4/20),

- o check broodnest again
- o super *in anticipation of* major nectar flow storage needs

Blossoming: Black Locust, variable; Blackberry (light tan / gray pollen), 4/20 - 5/22; Clover, 4/14 - ; Holly 4/14 - ; Tulip Poplar (powder yellow pollen), 4/20 - 5/26; Black Gum, 4/26 - 5/10; hardwood leafout, 4/1 - 4/24

May brood nest reduction / honey production

Every 10 days,

- o check and add supers as necessary, move less full peripheral super frames into the middle of the existing super
- o only check the broodnest / queen once, and only if a problem is suspected with the honey flow!

Later (about 5/22),

- o put bee escapes on the day before, and / or use fume board or leaf blower to
- o harvest capped frames of Spring Wildflower (amber) honey; leave uncapped Tulip Poplar (dark) honey supers on hive

Piedmont blossoming dates: Poison Ivy (orange pollen) to 5/23; Tulip Poplar to 5/26; American Holly, 5/1 - 5/16; Raspberry, 5/12 - 6/2; Persimmon, 5/20 - 6/2; Sumac, 5/23 - 6/10

Mountain blossoming dates: American Holly, 5/8 - 5/23; Black Locust, 5/15 - 5/28; Tulip Poplar, 5/25 - 6/18; Sourwood, 6/25 - 7/25

June honey production

Mid (after the major honey flow is over and the bees return to Clover),

- o check the broodnest / queen once in all hives
- o put bee escapes on the day before, and / or use fume board or leaf blower to
- o harvest dark Tulip Poplar honey and extract it
- o process the wax cappings from both extractions

Late (about 6/21),

- o ensure hives for Sourwood have broodnests completely full of honey and fortify them with extra bees as necessary
- o move those strong hives to the Mountains (1100 - 2200 ft) for the Sourwood honey flow
- o super each hive with 9 frames of drawn comb

Piedmont blossoming dates: Sumac to 6/12; Vitex about 6/10 - ; Clover

Mountain blossoming dates: Sumac to 6/26; Sourwood, 6/20 - 7/25

## July

### Sourwood honey production

Every 10 days or so,

- check supers, move less full peripheral super frames in, and add an additional super if necessary (when existing super is over 2/3 full and has some caps)

At end of Sourwood honey flow (after 7/20 – last week),

- harvest Sourwood supers, bring home, dry, and extract
- return hives from Mountains at dusk
- markedly entrance reduce weak hives to prevent robbing
- check broodnest / queen once (at end of flow)
- feed wet combs back to bees, and then
- store dry supers
- begin August feeding now!

Blossoming: Sourwood to 7/25; Clover to 7/25; Coreopsis, 7/25 – 10/8

## August

### brood nest expansion / overwinter broodnest location decision / nectar and pollen dearth !!! / SHB peak / wax moth peak

First week,

- feed every single colony 1:1 sugar syrup
- consider feeding each a pollen patty, ¼ to ½ a patty at a time (only what the colony can consume in 5 days) depending on pollen stores / collection
- find and remove old queens from hives to be requeened
- the next day, requeen (see "Foolproof Requeening")
- Varroa mite check (IPM bottom board; possible sugar shake test), and if the treatment threshold is met (> 100 mites/24 hours), consider:

Third week,

- apply Mite-Away II formic acid inside a 1 ½" spacer on top of the broodnest to hives that are above the treatment threshold for 3 weeks, or
- apply 4 pieces of an ApiLife VAR tablet to the top of the broodnest edges every 7 – 9 days 3 times
- continue to feed heavy 2:1 or 1:1 sugar syrup to all colonies

Blossoming: Goldenrod, 8/1 – 10/15; Snowpeas before 8/14; Stickweed after 8/14

## September

### Varroa mite peak / drone termination / brood nest expansion / weed nectar

Early (~ 9/1),

- check for Fall swarm preps (see late March), and if found, cut out all queen cells, and cage the queen for about a week and then re-release her
- recheck requeened hives
- Varroa mite check (IPM bottom board *and* sugar shake test) equivocal hives from August and treat colonies that are above the treatment threshold as in August
- reduce the entrance to the small hole

Later (~ 9/15),

- remove formic acid pad if placed in August (after 3 weeks)
- ensure the last ApiLife VAR tablets are gone or remove them after 12 days
- ensure that the broodnest is in the bottom chamber (reverse if necessary)
- Varroa mite check (IPM bottom board) all previously treated hives
- check hive weights (goal is 35 to 40 lbs of honey by October 31), and
- continue feeding all light colonies 1:1 or heavy 2:1 sugar syrup

Blossoming: Goldenrod 8/1 – 10/15; Coreopsis; Asters, 9/20 – 10/30

