

Spring and Summer Management Timeline

Date:	Action
Mid April	Install Package, Syrup is on (Don't forget to put Fumagilin in first gallon for each hive).
4-5 days later	Check for queen release, if not, release her (Remove screen on queen cage or clean out candy hole, replace cage to release queen and replace 10 th frame), check syrup stores, and check for eggs (If queen was released, you may see eggs, even in only partial built out comb).
1 week later	Check syrup stores (depending on feeding method: hive top, division board, mason jar, etc may have to check sooner), check frame build out, and check for eggs and larva development. You should at least see eggs at this point. If not then you may have a problem with your queen. (Bring a magnifying glass.)
Note:	Checking for syrup stores is a quick check under the covers (depending on your feeder). You don't have to take a full look inside the hive just to check syrup.
1 week later	Keep checking for frame build out. You are looking for a total of 7-8 frames built out. At this point you should be seeing eggs, larva, and capped brood (pupae).
Note:	When 7-8 frames are built out, add second brood chamber.
Note:	Dates here are approximately. Depending on things like weather condition and natural nectar flows and pollen availability, some hives will build out sooner and some will take longer. Weekly inspections are okay at this point, but remember, that every time you open the hive, you can set back the hive, so be cautious of your time in the hive. Too much is not good and too little is not good. Find a nice balance.
1 week later	Keep checking syrup stores and build-out in 2 nd brood chamber. Since the population will be increasing rapidly, the 2 nd brood chamber should take less time to build out than the first. It is also important to not let your sugar syrup run empty.
Note:	Keep checking syrup stores as often as your method dictates. Watch the build out of comb as well. By the beginning of June to mid June your entire two chambers should be built out.
Note:	At this time are you a ready to add your honey supers. STOP FEEDING SUGAR SYRUP WHEN ADDING HONEY SUPERS. Start with one honey super (medium or shallow) and wait until it is built out 7-8 frames before adding second. Again watch carefully with what is going in your hive. If you think there is a lot of bees and activity, then add the 2 nd honey super. It is more important that the bees have plenty of room to expand (over supering is better

than under). You don't want them to become honey bound (too much honey and not enough room for the queen to lay eggs).

Note: Honey supers can have 9 or 10 frames in them. Just remember to not remove the 10th frame until all the frames are built out. The bees will continue to build on the comb on the 9 frames. This will increase your honey yield per honey super in the long run. It also makes extracting easier.

Inspections: Once you have two brood chambers on and at least one honey super on, you will need to do inspections. This will be a full inspection, including both brood chambers and screen bottom board insert. You will be inspecting for eggs, larva, pupae, brood pattern, honey stores, pollen stores, swarm cells, supercedure cells, deformed bees, mites on bees, and chalk brood. As well you will be watching the bees coming and going: looking for bees heavy with honey and laden with pollen.

Summer: Ventilation is important in the summer. When the days start to get hot, you will need to prop open the telescoping outer cover. You need to put 2 pushpins in the front corners of the inner cover. This will lift the outer cover a bit and allow for more ventilation. Make sure that you have the outer cover pushed to the front.

Note: Mite Control and Management:

1. Sugar dusting (once a week for three weeks, break for 1-2 weeks, start again).
2. Mite-Away II: Formic Acid pads for treatment of Varroa and Tracheal mites, temperature sensitive treatment: mid summer or early fall.
3. Apilife Var or ApilGuard: Thymol treatment for Varroa and Tracheal mites, temperature sensitive: mid summer or early fall.

Fall Management:

1. Honey supers should be coming off late August, early September
2. Check and treat for mites (sugar dusting or chemicals).
3. Check honey stores in brood chambers. Watch for robbing. Weight of two brood chambers should be 80 lbs. going into winter. You will probably need to feed sugar syrup (2 sugar to 1 water).
4. Re-insert screened bottom board insert for winterizing.
5. Put on entrance reducer/mouse guard, when nights are getting cold or first frost.
6. Shims and homosoit in late fall
7. Winter candy and emergency feedings
8. Winter checks: quick and on 40 degree days