

HBKA Apiary Diary

Month	Tasks	In the hive	Treatment
January	Carry out repairs to hive equipment, make brood and super frames up. Apiary clean up day - check stands, clean up in apiary area and prune back foliage	On warm days see bees flying – carrying out dead, excrete, gather water, forage	Consider oxalic acid treatment on sunny dry day
February	Add a protein and sugar mix fondant or 1:1 sugar syrup solution via feeder on crown board	Queen starting to lay – winter bees dying off	
March	Choose a warm dry day for your first inspection	Colony should be starting to grow – 2-3 brood frames and 2-3 store frames. Queen excluders back in.	Do varroa mite count and treat if medium to high risk
April	Inspection every 7-10 days Perform swarm prevention and management	Colony growing rapidly- if 5-7 frames of brood start swarm prevention	Swop out old dark comb and replace with new comb frames to reduce disease build up- don't disturb brood nest
May	Inspection every 5 days Honey extraction (as soon as oil seed rape finished flowering) Perform swarm prevention and management	Re-queen those hives with poor numbers/ laying pattern. Insert frame of eggs from a good performing OR buy a new queen (after killing poor performing queen)	
June	Inspection every 5 days Perform swarm prevention and management Order fondant for winter	Check colonies as may have to split again those performing well so as not to allow late swarms	
July	Swarming period generally over - Inspection every 7-10 days	Keep an eye on split nucs, re-queened hives and build numbers for winter. Combine weaker colonies with stronger ones	
August	Honey Extraction		
September	Feed with 2:1 sugar syrup solution. Over wintering nuc preparations	Remove queen excluders	Do varroa mite count and treat if necessary
October	Stop feeding and heft for weight- aim for 20-25Kg	Winter bees now in place and will cluster	
November	Late Nov- heft- if light consider fondant block on top of crown board.		
December	Heft and add fondant if needed. Order labels, jars and lids for next year		Consider oxalic acid treatment on sunny dry day