

Spring and Summer Management Timeline

Date:	Action
Mid April	Install Package, Syrup is on (1:1 syrup, with Honeybee Healthy)
4-7 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 (Mason Jar Method), check or built out frames, 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 and a flashlight.)
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. Always wear your veil.
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 and they are working comb on the 9-10, add second brood chamber. They must be building comb on 9-10 before you add the second chamber. VERY IMPORTANT.
Note:	Timing here are approximately. Depending on things like weather condition, 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, too much is not good and too little is not good. Find a nice balance.
1 week later	Keep checking syrup stores and built-out frames in 2 nd brood chamber. Since the population will be increasing rapidly after the first month, 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. Put both of your honey supers (medium) on at this time. Again watch carefully with what is going in your hive. If you think there is a lot of bees and activity. 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 in the brood chambers).

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 frame 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 all season. For 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. Alcohol Wash or Sugar Roll Counts,
2. FORMIC PRO: Formic Acid pads for treatment of Varroa, temperature sensitive treatment: mid summer or early fall. Honey supers can be on.
3. ApilGuard: Thymol treatment for Varroa, temperature sensitive: mid summer or early fall. Honey Supers OFF
4. Oxalic Acid Vaporization. MUST USE SAFETY RESPIRATOR AND GOGGLES. THE LABEL IS THE LAW.

Fall Management:

1. Honey supers should be coming off mid September depending on fall honey flow, temperatures, and mite treatment.
2. Check and treat for mites.
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, feed all you need at once).
4. Re-insert screened bottom board insert for winterizing if you took it out.
5. Put on mouse guard, when nights are getting cold or first frost.
6. Shims and homosote in late fall
7. Winter candy and emergency feedings
8. Winter checks: quick and on 40 degree days