

Home Honey Production



Backyard Hives: Why Elevate them?



Skunks love to eat bees.

If you don't know the signs you will never suspect a skunk is eating the life out of your hive.

Options:

- Eliminate the skunks
- Eliminate the bees
- Or modify the bee stand



How warm do bees keep their hives in the Winter?



How warm do bees keep their hives in the
Winter? 84 deg F



Goal Tonight:

- Give you the basics in 25 minutes
 - Share some hard learned lesson to help you succeed.
-
- Lesson 1: Keep you bee hive entrance elevated (inaccessible to skunks)



Time to Start is Now: Early in the Year

- Need to place your order for bee packages starting mid February.
- Most bee packages are delivered in April.
- Bee boxes in place and ready for bees before you purchase your bees.



Necessary Equipment: hive

- 3 Boxes Minimum
- 1 lid
- 1 bottom
- Enough Frames to fill each box

I prefer the Styrofoam boxes: BeeMax for Dadant

- They never need repainting
- Warmer for the bees
- Much lighter
- Handled gently, they will last longer



Necessary Equipment: tools

- Smoker
- Veil
- Gloves
- Hive tool



Necessary Equipment: Bee Feeder

- Top of the hive (in hive feeder)
- Bees can only drink, but not drown



- Buy them on amazon: HRC Rapid Bee Feeder
- YouTube - how to use search: “Best Honey Feeder On the Market”

Lesson 2: Buy “clean packages”

- Buy the right packages which have been treated for varroa mites.
- Or treat them yourself before they get into the hive.



Place the bee package in bottom box only.

Take some frames out of the bottom box.

This will give room as you shake the bees out of the package.

Let the bees spread out and slowly put the frames back in without smashing bees.

You should not need your smoker while doing this.

I suggest you watch several YouTube videos on how to do this. These will tell you how handle the queen.



The Queen Cage: Don't let the queen out yet.

The bees need time to learn the smell of their new queen. If they don't know her they will kill her. **BE GENTLE WITH THE QUEEN CAGE!**

Place the queen cage in hive between frames so the bees can continue to feed her.

If it is a candy cage, remove the candy cover so the bees can let her out over time.

If there are only plugs, after 3 to 4 days you have to come back and let her out.



Hive: Use only one box until the bees need room.

You want the queen to start laying in this box. If you put on another box with frames on it at this time, she will never use the lower box and you just wasted the money you paid for that box.

After two to three weeks, or when you notice they need room which means they are using about 7 to 8 frames, then put on the second box.



Hive: Start Feeding Immediately

In Utah, if you want your package to survive, they need food immediately. Early spring is not a good honey month for bees. They will not find enough to sustain growth.

You can feed a package as much as they want and will take. You don't need to worry about swarming this first year. To the bees from a package, they have already done that and are working to survive.



Feeder Spacer

Bee Feed Recipe

1:1 bee sugar syrup is used to stimulate the queen to start laying in the spring. Due to the very high water content it is not used as summer or winter food, but is often used in the preparation of other bee foods or applications such as essential oil supplements.

To make it even better add some essential oils.
The following is for 5 gallons, so scale down if necessary.

To one cup boiling water, add 2 teaspoons dry lecithin. Mix it together very well until lecithin dissolves. To this add 2 teaspoons Spearmint Oil, and 2 teaspoons Lemon Grass Oil. Mix well. This mixture you add to the 1:1 sugar syrup solution.



Keeping them Alive: Lesson 3-Work with your farmer

- If your hive is next to an alfa field, work with the farmer.
- Lock your bees in the hive when he sprays. Have him spray in the morning if possible.
- Or move your bees.



Keeping them Alive: Lesson 4 – Treat for Varroa destructor mite



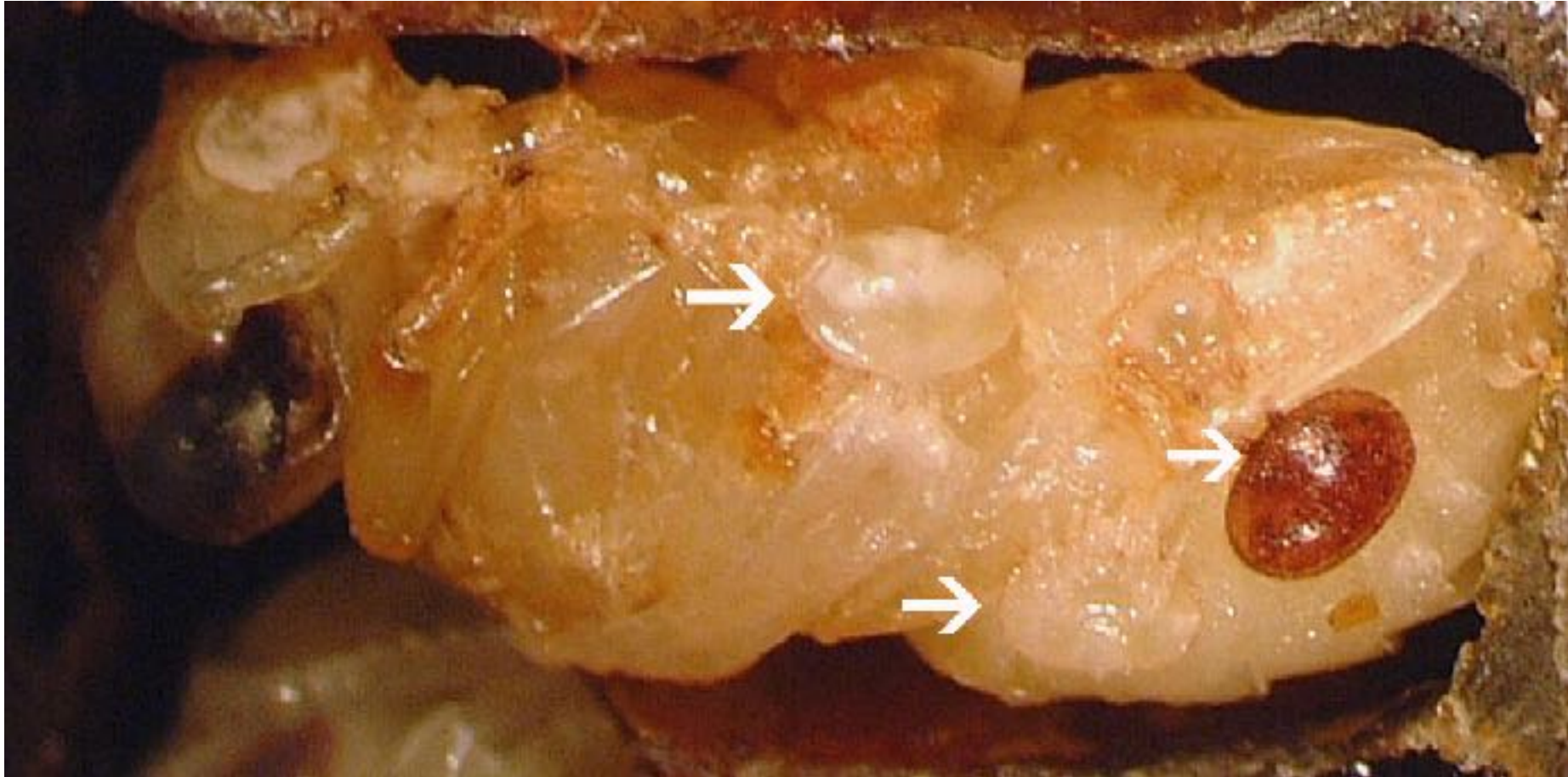
Varroa Mite: One goes in, 3 to 5 come out.



Varroa Mite: They Carry Many Viruses



Varroa Mite: Eventually Kill Larva- The Hive.



Varroa Mite: Drones Are the Problem

Drones can go into any hive.

Drones fly in a 5 mile radius

Drones carry the varroa mite from hive to hive.



Varroa Mite: All hives in the U.S. have or will have these mites

Untreated hives can live from 2 months to 2 years.

It is not a question of IF. The question is WHEN your hive will have them.

100% guaranteed of CCD, (colony collapse disorder) for any hive that is not treated for mites.



Varroa Mite Treatments: Oxalic Acid

- Found in Ants and Bees
- Rhubarb
- Cabbage
- Broccoli
- Brussels Sprouts
- Sorrel
- Parsley



Once the acid is neutralized, it is gone.
Composed only of carbon, oxygen,
hydrogen

Varroa Mite Treatments: Oxalic Acid

- Found in nature – not a “manufactured chemical.”
- Very mild – handle it without gloves in crystal form.
- Same molecular structure as acetic acid (vinegar) except for two oxygen atoms. Neutralized and it is gone
- No buildup in the wax to harm the bees



Varroa Mite Treatments: Oxalic Acid

- Vaporize Oxalic Acid
- Takes less than five minutes per hive
- Must be done every 3 months, a series of once a week for 3 weeks
- Once in December



Varroa Mite Treatments: Chemicals

- Be wary of chemicals. They say they don't build up in the wax. They do!



Honey Harvesting: Use a brush, not chemicals



Honey Harvesting: Make it a good experience

Have a box for frames to keep the bees off.

Work only in heat of the day. Less bees in the hive and they are nicer to work with.

Remember you are robbing the bank. Patience.



Honey Harvesting:

- Only Harvest what you can extract that day while the honey is warm.



Honey Harvesting: Extractor

- It comes down to how much to want to spend.
- Electric is much easier to use and much more enjoyable.
- Small ones need to be bolted to the floor.



Storing Frames for Winter

Frames must be stored in a good quality plastic bag that has is sealed.

Each bag has to be “frozen” for 48 hours in order to kill any moth eggs.

Even if you can't see any eggs, they are there and will hatch and eat everything in the bag if you don't freeze them.



Farmers Market: Spanish Fork

People want a quality product that is made in their locality.

Local Honey has the local pollen in it and is good for allergies.

People like sweet natural food.

People also like to talk to the producer to ask questions they may have.

