

North Florida Bee Management Guide

January

1. Inventory colonies this month for stores and material condition, Check pollen feeding station.
2. Inspect for diseases, V.mites, beetles and queenright.
3. Move bad combs to outside.
4. Begin antibiotics treatments according to label.
5. Check for V.mites using sticky board or other method for sampling and treat as required.
6. Put in feed and/or pollen substitute
7. Refurbish and build equipment
8. Look for honey locations and pollination contracts

February

1. Remove bad combs.
2. Check for V.mites using sticky board or other method for sampling and treat as required.
3. Check for effects of mite treatments
4. Put our swarm catch box with fresh pheromone lures
5. Equalize the colonies
6. Inspect for diseases, V.mites, beetles and queenright.
7. Put on supers
8. Feed to stimulate and check pollen feeding station.

March

1. Inspect colonies twice this month for congestion, stores, diseases, V.mite, beetles, brood pattern, queenright, and queen cells
2. Prepare for swarming
3. Divide colonies or requeen
4. Remove all drugs and pest chemicals at least 4 weeks before the honey flow.
5. Prepare supers for honey flow.
6. Install queens and package bees.

April

1. Inspect for congestion, queencells, diseases, V.mites, beetles, queenright and stores.
2. Add all drown supers for spring honeyflow.
3. Watch for swarming
4. Try to find pollination contracts.

May

1. Inspect for congestion, queenright, diseases, V.mites, beetles, and stores.
2. Process spring honey.
3. Watch for swarming.
4. Put on comb honey supers.

June

1. Inspect for congestion, queenright, diseases, V.mite, beetles, and stores.
2. Put on popcorn(Chinese tallow tree) supers.

July

1. Inspect for congestion, queenright, diseases, V.mites, beetles, and stores.
2. Remove and process honey.
3. Apply V.mite treatments.
4. Check for V.mites using sticky board or other method for sampling and treat as required.
5. Re-queen of planned.
6. Apply antibiotics if planned for disease prevention.

August

1. Inspect for congestion, queenright, diseases, V.mites, beetles, honey and pollen stores..
2. Re-queen if necessary or planned.
3. Provide proper ventilation for wintering.
4. Inspect for stores.
5. Apply antibiotics if planned for disease prevention.
6. Check for V.mites using sticky board or other method for sampling and treat as required.

September

1. Inspect for congestion, queenright, diseases, V.mites, beetles, honey and pollen stores.
2. Check for V.mites using sticky board or other method for sampling and treat as required.
3. Package all hive products: honey, mead, polish, propolis, candles, beeswax, gift boxes.
4. Sell, sell, sell.

October

1. Inspect for congestion, queenright, diseases, V.mites, beetles, honey and pollen stores.
2. Set up equipment for: feeding sugar solutions (heavy syrup), dry pollen feeding station.
3. Develop new products from your hives and sell, sell, sell.
4. Buy equipment for next year at this year's prices.

November

1. Inspect for congestion, queenright, diseases, V.mites, beetles, honey and pollen stores.
2. Check pollen feeding station.

December

1. Check colony stores, feed if necessary.
2. Order package, queens, or Nucs for desired deliver dates.
3. Check for dead failing colonies, Combine colonies as necessary.
4. Check pollen feeding station.
5. Get ready for next year it is here.