

Fall Feeding Your Bees

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Why Feed Your Bees

- Bees have insufficient stores for winter
- Bees need medication

Protecting the Hive

- While feeding, install entrance reducer to help bees protect the hive and reduce robbing
 - Important for weaker hives
- Do not feed bees while supers are on
 - You don't want syrup in your honey
- Do not medicate bees while super are on
 - You don't want any contamination of the honey

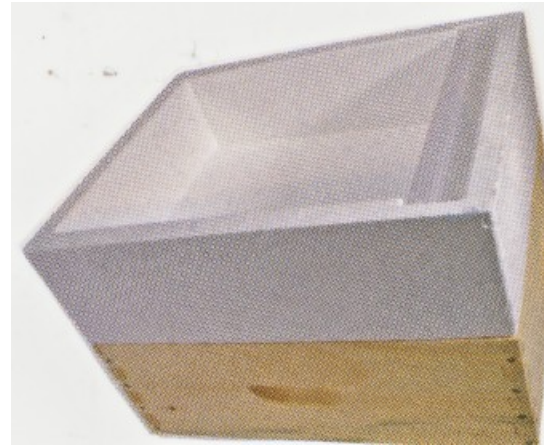
Types of Foods for Bees

- Syrup
 - Sugar syrup
- Mush
 - Granulated sugar & small amount of water
- Bee candy
 - Made from granulated sugar
- Commercial
 - Powder, liquid & patties

Types of Feeders

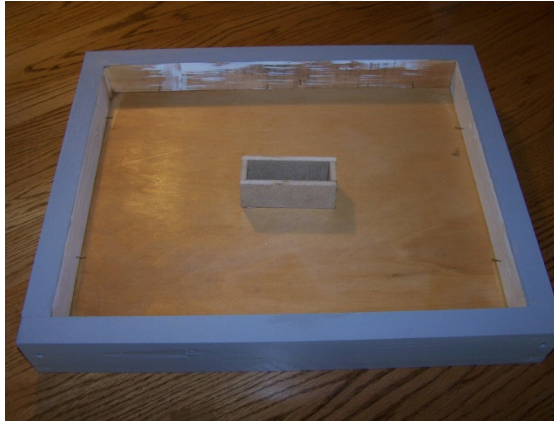
- Hive top feeder
- Division board feeder
 - Must remove frame(s)
- Jar or small bucket with holes in lid
 - Requires you have spare hive/super bodies
- Entrance feeder
 - Inexpensive and easy to use
 - Doesn't require you opening the hive
 - Not good for cold weather

Hive Top Feeders



- Very good for feeding syrup
- Minimizes loss of bees
- Don't have to open brood chamber to feed in cold weather
- Can be used to feed mush

Candy Tray



- Place directly on top of brood chamber
- Serves as inner cover
- Serves as spacer to feed mush
- Allows you to open hive in colder weather and not expose bees to cold winds
 - Very useful during mid to late winter feeding

Division Board Feeders



- Good for feeding syrup
- Can be used for feeding mush
 - Remove top cover and bee ladder
- Must remove hive inner cover to fill

Jar or Bucket with Holes in Lid

- Used for feeding syrup
- Requires a spacer
- Place over inner cover
- May use small strips under bucket lid
 - Allows ventilation
- Place syrup in bucket, seal the lid and place upside down over the hole in inner cover

Making Sugar Syrup

- For Fall, use a mixture of two parts sugar to one part water by volume

Making Mush

- Use a ratio of 8 to1 by volume
 - 8 parts sugar to 1 part water
 - 8 cups sugar to 1 cup water
 - 4 lbs sugar to 1 cup water
- Mix sugar and water thoroughly
- Place in plastic bag or just mix in bag
- Make an X slit in plastic bag and place X over opening in inner cover
- Can also feed in division board feeder or candy tray
 - Remove lid and ladders in division board feeders

Making Bee Candy

- Use 10 lbs sugar and 1 quart water
- Bring water to boil and add sugar over flame
- Heat to 240 degrees F
- Cool without stirring to 200 – 210 degrees F
- Stir rapidly until an opaque appearance
- Quickly add 1/3 pint honey if you want
- Immediately pour into trays and let cool

CAUTION: Be very careful, the heated candy will give you a VERY SERIOUS burn if it contacts the skin





Late Summer/Early Fall

- After you remove the honey supers, check the weight of your hives
- Bees still have fall flowers to increase winter stores
- If hives are very light you may need to boost stores
- Use two parts sugar to one part water by volume
 - You want to increase stores but not increase brood

Late Fall/Winter Feeding

- When daily high temperature falls below 60 degrees F - frosting at night
- Bees start to cluster
- Bees may no longer be able to process syrup to remove water
- Most recommend each hive have at least 60 lbs of stores for the winter
- Again perform the lift test on your hives

Late Fall/Winter Feeding

- Switch to bee candy or mush
- Use candy or mush until bees can start processing syrup in the spring

Medicating Your Bees

- Example: Fumagilin-B
- Fall, use 2 part sugar to 1 part water syrup
- Mix in Fumagilin-B per manufacturers recommendation
- Must not have supers on hives
- Do not expose medicated syrup to sunlight