

Bee Yard
Midstate Beekeepers
August 4, 2020

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What's going on in the Beeyard in August

- Get in and out of hive quickly due to dearth robbing
- Feed 1:1 sugar syrup
 - Use division/frame feeders or I prefer pail feeders.
 - You want the bees to start rising brood
 - In August the bees do not typically store the syrup but turn it into bees

What's going on in the Beeyard in August

- Check for mites
 - Alcohol wash or sugar shake; alcohol wash is the preferred way
 - Need to shake for one minute
 - Take 300 bees from brood chamber
 - Mixed honey and pollen frames next to brood frames exhibit the average mite count
 - Brood frames exhibit high mite count but need to be careful about queen
 - Outside honey or pollen frames (1&2 or 9&10) exhibit low mite counts
 - If have 2% mites (2 mites in 100 bees or 6 mites in 300 bees or a ½ cup) need to treat
 - Treat with OA, thymol/Apiguard with temperatures in upper 90s; Hopguard III;
 - Check mite levels after treatment

What's going on in the Beeyard in August

- In August the nurse bees are emerging that will take care of your winter bees starting in September. We want healthy nurse bees
- Feed pollen especially starting in September
 - Feeding dry pollen is preferred
 - In pollen feeders away from hive or small amount on tops of frames
 - Feeding pollen patties inside colony can cause SHB issues. If use pollen patties, use only a very small amount that the bees can consume in 1-2 days; place on top bars directly above the brood; note that in a summer dearth in August, you need to feed syrup to get the bees producing plentiful amount of brood. If you do not have much brood, feed dry pollen
 - Currently no pollen sub. Is 100% effective. All have some nutrition deficiencies.

What's going on in the Beeyard in August

- Wax moths
 - temperatures between 5°C. (41°F.) and 18°C. (64.4°F.) result in no developmental activity. Wax Moth eggs are not able to hatch at temperatures below 18°C. (64.4°F.)¹ When the temperature cools to below about 64°F., the beekeeper has fewer worries about wax moth damage. Below 41°F. (5°C.) wax moth larvae are completely dormant.
 - Your best defense against wax moths is a strong colony. A strong colony is defined as a colony strong enough to defend the volume of its hive. For some colonies that may mean multiple 10 frame Langstroth hive bodies; for weaker colonies it might mean a five-frame nucleus hive with a one bee space entrance reducer. The beekeeper should be mindful of matching colony population to the appropriate amount of hive space they must defend.
 - Use open air/light to retard development

What's going on in the Beeyard in August

- Small Hive Beetles (SHB)
 - Use Swiffer unscented type pads in severe problem (more than 10-20 beetles)
 - If move colonies yearly, often SHB are not an issue
 - Pupate in the soil, so hard soil (not wet) helps; can use “garden barrier” cloth but SHB can crawl a long way.
 - Can squash them with hive tool
 - Bees “jail” SHB in hive often on top of the inner cover; leaving hive alone as much as possible helps; should check Varroa at least once but preferably twice in August.

What's going on in the Beeyard in August

- Requeening in August is preferred to waiting
- Latest should spilt but should use drawn comb if possible
 - Hold enough stores for winter
 - Tough to get bees to draw out comb since typically have a weak fall flow
 - If bees have less than 80% comb need will drawn out additional comb
- Make sure have close water source
- Reduce entrances to minimize yellow jack robbing
 - Can kill a weak colony

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