



Master Beekeeping Program

Lesson 6 – Summer management and honey production



Summer management

Swarming is still a risk to your hives.

Swarm season in Washington Mid April to Mid-June.

Monitor your hives for Varroa mites. Do you need to treat?

Important: Make sure you medicate your bees before placing any honey supers on your hives and only after you remove all honey supers to avoid contamination of your honey product. (Exception: HopGuard & Formic acid products)

Be careful not to use frames from previous medicated brood boxes for baiting, etc. in your honey supers.

Honey harvesting

Make sure you have honey supers on your hives!

You need to be ahead of the bees!

1. Remove bees from honey supers
2. Remove honey supers
3. Remove capping's from frames (heated uncapping knife)
4. Place uncapped frames in a tangential or radial extractor
5. Spin out the honey
6. Filter the honey
7. Bottle the honey

4 ways honey is marketed

1. Comb Honey
2. Extracted honey
3. Creamed honey
4. Cut comb honey

Important: When removing honey from your hive, remember that you need to leave enough honey for the bees to make it through the winter. Your bees will need at least 60 lbs. of honey going into the winter. If you take too much honey for yourself, your bees will starve to death and cost you much more in the long run.

Honey Frames

--Capping on the comb indicate the honey is ripe

--Ripened honey has had the moisture reduced to 16-18.5%

--When super combs more than 3/4ths sealed, it's safe to extract

--Doubt ripeness, hold frame surface horizontal over hive and shake vigorously. If no drops on the top bars, honey is ripe.

Extraction

--Crush; messy, time consuming

--Extracting machine; less mess, quick...PSBA has them to rent to members

Notes:

Resources Online:

PSBA website: www.pugetsoundbees.org

WSBA website: www.wasba.org

National Honey Board: www.nhb.org

Bee Informed: <http://beeinformed.org/>

Honey Bee Suite - Rusty Burlew: <http://www.honeybeesuite.com/>

The Practical Beekeeper - Michael Bush: <http://www.bushfarms.com/bees.htm>

Scientific Beekeeping - Randy Oliver: <http://scientificbeekeeping.com/>

WSU Diagnostics lab: <http://entomology.wsu.edu/apis/diagnostic-lab/>

Apiary Registration form: <http://agr.wa.gov/PlantsInsects/Apiary/docs/ApiaryRegistrationForm.pdf>