



Beekeeper's Checklist

A list of suggested beekeeping activities throughout the year

The dates are approximate and will vary year to year. Colonies can be opened at temperatures above 10°C and frames can be removed at temperatures above 15° C. For more information about pest and disease control see:

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/inspection/bees/2017-treatment.htm>

Mid April

- check for colony mortality and remove dead hives from the apiary
- AFB preventative treatment

Late April

- unwrap hives
- test colony weight by tipping hive or inspecting frames
- feed sugar syrup if necessary
- AFB preventative treatment
- monitor for varroa mite levels, treat if necessary

Early May

- brood chamber inspection
- swarm prevention - add 1 or 2 honey supers per hive above the queen excluder when the brood chamber is close to being full of bees
- remove entrance reducers when dandelions come into bloom

Late May

- brood chamber inspection
- swarm control where necessary – remove all swarm cells if queen is still laying
- add honey supers as necessary
- split hives for swarm prevention and to increase colony count (introduce a locally produced queen cell to the new queenless colony)
- install nucleus colonies or splits into new hives and feed sugar syrup to aid comb building on new frames

Early June

- split hives for swarm prevention and to increase colony count (introduce a mated Ontario queen or queen cell to the new queenless colony)
- swarm control if necessary

Late June

- add honey supers as necessary
- requeen colonies as necessary with mated queens produced in Ontario (requeening is possible from June to early September)

Early July

- add honey supers as necessary with the goal of all supers being full at the desired harvest time in late July/early August

Late July/Early August

- harvest summer honey and add a super with empty comb to each colony for later nectar flows, package honey in containers
- brood chamber inspection

August

- super as necessary for August and early September nectar flows
- monitor for varroa mite levels and treat if necessary

Mid September

- harvest fall honey, package honey in containers
- brood chamber inspection
- feed sugar syrup - 4 gallons of 2:1 syrup per hive
- medicate for AFB prevention
- varroa mite control

Early November

- remove mite control products
- prepare colonies for winter- wrap, insulate, install entrance reducers, provide upper entrance
- render beeswax

Winter

- buy and assemble bee equipment
- order supplies
- order nucs, queens for next season
- education - beekeeper association meetings, reading, watch our HBRC 'how to videos', register for quality beekeeping courses