

The Beekeepers Year

	The Bees						The Beekeeper							
	Flight activity	Stores consumption	Egg laying	Bee types hatched	Bee cargo into hive	Treatments	Swarm risk	Inspections	Action to hive	Swarm Action	Feed	Supers	Harvest	Estimated time spent
January	cleansing flights only	11 - 12 lbs 5 - 7.5 kg	v low	v low female only	Nil	Oxalic treatment on mild day?	Nil	heft weekly, clear snow?	ensure good ventilation	-	only if stores are v low	-	-	< 1 hour
February	cleansing flights only	11 - 12 lbs 5 - 7.5 kg	low	v low female only	Nil	none	Nil	Heft weekly, open only if v mild	ensure good ventilation	-	only if stores are v low	-	-	< 1 hour
March	increasing activity	11 - 12 lbs 5 - 7.5 kg	medium to medium+	both female and male drones	Nil	V	Nil	check stores weekly, look for dead hives	ensure good ventilation	look for signs of queen cells	important, check and add if required	-	-	2 hours
April	medium+	see note below	high	female and drones	blossom P & N?	before adding supers treat for V and N	if v mild, possible later in month	start weekly inspections - check for disease and pests	finish treatments	keep looking, split hives later in month	None needed once bees bring in stores	-	possible blossom honey	3 hours
May	high	see note below	medium +	female++ and drones	P & N	too late for most treatments	V High	weekly	If needed split hive, remove MG and entrance reducer, possible hive body reversing	take action	None	-	-	4 - 5 hours
June	high	see note below	medium	female++ and drones	honey flow P & N	none	V High	weekly	add super? watch out for wasps or other bees	take action	None	add supers?	-	4 - 5 hours
July	medium+	see note below	medium	female and drones	honey flow P & N	none	still possible	weekly	add super? watch out for wasps or other bees	as required	None	add supers?	-	2 - 3 hours
August	medium	see note below	low +	female and drones	P & N	after harvest treat for V & N	unlikely	weekly	carry out N & V treatments after harvest	unlikely	None	remove, spin off and return	main crop	1 - 2 hours
September	lower	see note below	winter bees low +	female only	P & N	dependent on when you harvested, treat for V & N	Nil	weekly	late harvest N & V treatment, recombine split hives? and reduce entrance	-	Feed as much syrup as possible	spin off surplus	main crop	2 - 3 hours on hive > 5 hours on honey
October	low	see note below	low	female only	some P & N	none	Nil	weekly	add mouse guard	-	Add more if not enough for winter	-	-	2 hours
November	v low foragers	see note below	v low	v low female only	v low P & N	none	Nil	weekly	Heft hive to determine wt	-	none	-	-	< 1 hours
December	cleansing flights only	11 - 12 lbs 5 - 7.5 kg	nil	v low female only	nil	Oxalic treatment on mild day?	Nil	weekly	-	-	place fondant on top bars for Xmas	-	-	none

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This is a suggested beekeeper's annual checklist of activities.

Note that weather, hive location and even the type of bees you have will influence such activities. Some activities could come a month earlier or later depending on how cold or warm the previous winter has been and what condition your hive is in after winter, so make allowance when you read the calendar.

The calendar gives you an overview of what's going on each month in **each hive**. It also suggests most of the important tasks for the beekeeper and provides a rough estimate of the amount of time you might spend with your bees during a given month. If you haven't already done so, create a **Hive Record Card** for each of your hives and remember to fill them in each time you visit the bees. They are so useful – as they remind you of many things you would have forgotten about individual hives and you can learn so much from these records.

Notes	
Stores consumption	National hives need 20-30kg for winter (NBU fig) bees unable to fly out in bad weather will consume stores, so check if additional food is needed!
Egg laying	Dependent on how productive the queen is, when egg laying is too low - requeen, normally every 2-years to counter varroa (NBU)!
Bee cargo into hive	P = pollen and N = nectar
Treatments	varroacide (V) treatment and Nozevit+ (www.apivita.hr) to treat Nosema (N) are main types, but additional tonic feeds are also used toincrease honey production. Oxalic acid in syrup treatment used in winter when minimum brood are present, probably in January each year
Swarm risk	Practice artificial swarm control each year, normally swarm season is late April to July, annual late April hive splitting can help deal with this problem.
Inspections	early inspections only when very mild, throughout rest of season make weekly inspections, almost regardless of weather!
Action to hive	MG = mouse guard. Hive body reversing normally only applies to double BB or 1½ ^{BB} setups and rotating BB thro' 180 degrees is an option
Swarm action	read up and choose one of the various options for swarm control
Feed	when to add extra feed and when to build up winter stores
Supers	months to add extra supers
Harvest	months to harvest honey

Honey Bees: days from egg to hatching

