

HBKA Forager: The Beekeeper's Year for end 2017 and 2018 v 6.4

	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 & Stores	Supers	Harvest	Asian Hornet	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	clear snow, check Hive OK?	Heft every 2-weeks, ensure good ventilation,	-	On V mild day, add only if stores are v low	-	-	-	< 1 hour
February	cleansing flights only	11 - 12 lbs 5 - 7.5 kg	low	v low female only	P	none	Nil	Heft 2-weekly, ensure protection against mice and woodpeckers.	ensure good ventilation, clear entrance of debris and dead bees	-	On V mild day, add only if stores are v low	-	-	buy or build enough AH traps for your hives	< 1 hour
March	increasing activity	11 - 12 lbs 5 - 7.5 kg	medium to medium+	both female and male drones	P	V plus drone culling	Nil	check stores weekly feed sugar syrup if needed, look for dead hives	March or April carry out Bailey comb change (see NBU FAQ 5), ensure good ventilation	look for signs of queen cells, prep spare hive and foundation for swarm control	important, check and add sugar syrup if required	add super prior to season warming up, if BB is getting full	-	Set up an AH monitoring trap(s)	2 hours
April	medium+	see note below	high	female and drones	blossom P & N?	before adding supers treat for V and N, more drone culling	if v mild, possible later in month	start regular weekly inspections - add QExcluder, check for disease and pests	if still cold nights leave MG and finish treatments	Practice Swarm control method ready to split hives later in month, if required	No feed needed - once bees bring in stores	Be prepared to add supers once BB is full	possible blossom honey	Monitor AH Trap, be prepared - Read Bee Craft article P7, Nov 2017	3 hours
May	high	see note below	high	female++ and drones	Possible start of honey flow towards end May? P & N	too late for most treatments	V High	weekly, check for occupied queen cells and take action if needed	if needed split hive, remove MG and entrance reducer, possible hive body reversing	use one of the artificial swarm control methods	None	Be prepared to add more supers	-	Monitor trap, action is only taken after a dead AH is sent to NBU.	4 - 5 hours
June	high	see note below	medium +	female++ and drones	honey flow P & N	none	V High	weekly, remove Spring Blossom Honey, if appropriate	add super? watch out for wasps or other bees, monitor Varroa!	take swarm prevention action if needed!	Ensure colony is not short of food, if you took off Spring Honey	If extra space is needed add more supers	-	Monitor trap, action is only taken after a dead AH is sent to NBU.	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, reduce entrance to avoid robbing	as required, getting a bit late for swarms	None	add supers if needed?	Remove surplus honey when ready for extraction	Monitor trap, action is only taken after a dead AH is sent to NBU.	2 - 3 hours
August	medium	see note below	low +	female and drones	P & N	after harvest treat for V & N	unlikely	weekly, treat for varroa as required	carry out N & V treatments after harvest	unlikely	Check bees have enough stores	remove, spin off and return	Harvest main crop	Monitor trap, action is only taken after a dead AH is sent to NBU.	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 hefting, carry out a thorough disease inspection	late harvest N & V treatment, recombine split hives? and reduce entrance	-	Feed as much syrup as possible	spin off surplus	Harvest main crop	Monitor trap, action is only taken after a dead AH is sent to NBU.	2 - 3 hours on hive > 5 hours on honey
October	low	see note below	low	female only	some P & N	none	Nil	weekly check up (exterior only)	add MG, woodpecker? Wind? Storm? feed? heft to determine wt	-	Change to fondant if stores are low	-	-	-	2 hours
November	v low foragers	see note below	v low	v low female only	v low P & N	none	Nil	weekly check up (exterior only)	Heft hive	-	add an EKE to house winter fondant	-	-	-	< 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 check up (exterior only)	-	-	place fondant on top bars for Xmas	-	-	-	none

Notes and definitions:-

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, Honey Flow period shown in darker green
Treatments	varroacide (V) treatment and Nozevit+ (www.apivita.hr) to treat Nosema (N) are main types, but additional tonic feeds are also used to increase 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 usually 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
Asian Hornet	Asian Hornet found in UK in 2016 & 2017. Action is to set up a AH Trap and monitor for signs of activity, READ article in BeeCraft Nov 2017, P7 tells you what to do!
Estimated Time Spent	Guideline of the typical time you will probably spend every month on <u>each of your hives</u> - in hours per month.

Honey Bees: days from egg to hatching

