

Smichinski's Northern Bred Bees

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EARLY SPRING MANAGEMENT

Bee hives that have survived the winter months now need your care. We suggest that during the month of February or March, on a calm day when the temperature is 40 degrees or above, you perform the following tasks.

Preparation

- Dress appropriately along with your protective clothing
- Light your smoker
- Lightly smoke the entrance to the hive

Disassemble the Hive

- Use your hive tool to gently loosen the outer and inner covers
- Lightly smoke under the inner cover
- Use your hive tool to loosen the top super
- Hold super up slightly with your hive tool and lightly smoke under it
- Continue loosening supers and lightly smoke until you reach the top of the bottom board
- Remove mouse guard and do not replace
- Remove the outer cover and lay it on the ground upside down
- Remove the upper super with the inner cover left in place and place across the outer cover
- Remove consecutive supers and place each crosswise on top of the previous removed one
- Remove entrance reducer
- Remove all debris from the bottom board using your hive tool

Assemble the Hive

- Replace bottom board on hive stand
- Replace entrance reducer with opening facing down
- Replace the bottom supers as before
- Take notice as to how heavy or light each super is to determine if there is enough honey stores at this time

This is a good time to apply Terramycin, Menthol packet and Apistan strips.

- Have all medications and equipment gathered and on hand before opening the hives
- Place one Apistan strip for each five frames covered with bees
- Place right in the center of bee cluster for maximum contact
- Place the Menthol packet in between the supers where the bees are located
- Place next to and not on top of the bee cluster
- Terramycin may be applied by sprinkling (3) teaspoons on the ends of the top bars where the Menthol packet is already placed
- Repeat application of Terramycin two more times, seven to ten days between each application
- Replace the second super
- Install Apistan strips as needed in upper super
- Replace the inner and outer covers
- Replace weight on top of hive

If honey stores are low, make syrup and feed inside of the hive.

Planning ahead...you will be opening the hives two more times over the next two to three weeks to apply more Terramycin. At these times you will want to be watching the honey stores and plan to feed about a gallon of one to one (by weight) syrup with Fumigillin-B. Feed the syrup with Fumigillin-B only after the three feedings of Terramycin are completed.

How to Make a Gallon of Light Syrup

- Mix five pounds of granulated sugar with 2 ½ quarts of very hot water until dissolved
- Dissolve one rounded teaspoon of Fumigillin-B in 1 oz of warm water and set aside
- Once the gallon of syrup has cooled to room temperature, add the Fumigillin-B and mix

If colony is dead, clean the dead bees from the comb and hive as soon as possible. Allow maximum air circulation when stacking bee equipment to prevent mold.

When you replace or increase colonies be aware of the hive beetle. Packaged bees and nucs from the south are known to contain hive beetles. This is an increasing problem and is as serious as previous mite problems. Make every effort to prevent beetle infestation and replace or start new colonies with the help of **Northern Bred Bees**.

As a reminder, we encourage you to order your nucs early.