

FEEDING BEES

Spring

1. In spring when starting a colony from a package of bees you always have to feed packaged-started colonies. When a package of bees is placed into an empty hive, the bees don't have a store of food like an established colony. It takes a lot of energy to draw out foundation and make comb. That energy has to come from someplace NOW. You have to provide it to get them started. Point: during spring the weather can prohibit the bees' ability to get out and forage which is another reason to feed.
2. In late spring also known as the "May dearth". This applies to package-started colonies and established hives. Often there is a lack of food during late spring, especially May, just before the honey flow. You need to monitor and make sure bees have sufficient stores.
3. Q. Do you feed bees in summer? A. Don't need to if the blackberries are blossoming also known as the nectar flow.

Feeding a hive started with a package:

Sugar Syrup: You will need approximately 1 gallon or more of syrup per hive

Materials:

- One part granulated sugar
- One part hot water
- Bucket feeder with perforated lid or any other feeder
- Inner cover

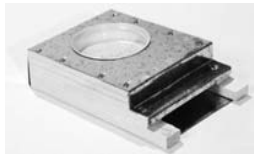





Preparation and application:

Once water is hot, remove it from the heat source and slowly mix the sugar into the water while constantly stirring

- Allow the syrup to come to room temperature
- Pour the syrup into feeder
- Follow instructions for specific feeder used
- Refill as needed

*Note: Liquid feed can only be fed when temperatures are above 50 degrees.

Hive Feeders

Boardman	Inverted Bucket/Jar		Inner cover	Inside Feeder/Division Board	Hive Top
					
<p>Pros:</p> <p>Convenient to use. Do not have to open Syrup level visible. Access easy because external to hive.</p>	<p>Pros:</p> <p>Convenient to use Do not have to open hive when re-filling. Syrup level visible in strong light. Proximity to cluster. Feeding port engineered so syrup does not drip when feeding.</p>	<p>Pros:</p> <p>Convenient to use. Do not have to open hive to re-fill. Syrup level easily seen. Proximity to cluster. No propolized feeding port. Less expensive than bucket.</p>	<p>Pros:</p> <p>Convenient to use. Used for dry feeding. Minimum disturbance: only have to open cover. Used in cold or wet weather when dry feeding is only option. Proximity to cluster.</p>	<p>Pros:</p> <p>Proximity to brood nest. Bees have access to feeder.</p>	<p>Pros:</p> <p>Convenient to use. Minimum disturbance. Only have to open cover to check consumption.</p>
<p>Cons:</p> <p>Encourages robbing. Attracts ants. External so weather dependent for bees.</p>	<p>Cons:</p> <p>Expanding air can force syrup out. Feeding port loosens over time. Requires use of empty. Super & inner cover block light.</p>	<p>Cons:</p> <p>Requires use of empty super and inner cover to block light.</p>	<p>Cons:</p> <p>No cons.</p>	<p>Cons:</p> <p>Takes up room in brood area. Have to open the hive to re-fill. Older models drown bees. Bees may not leave cluster to feed.</p>	<p>Cons:</p> <p>Bees have to break cluster to feed. Not recommended to use at temperatures below 50 degrees.</p>

Prepared by Morris Ostrofsky
Lane County Beekeepers Association