

The Beekeeping Year – Month by Month

Month	Bees' Requirements	Flora	Beekeeper's Job
August	Feeding Disease & Varroa Free Weatherproof hive Laying Queen	Heather Knapweed Meadowsweet	Remove crop - Extract Honey - Feed Check/Treat for Varroa - Check for AFB - Check for Queen-right - Queen rearing Comb drawn out – Remove supers
September	Feeding Disease and Varroa Free Weatherproof hive Laying Queen	Ivy Heather Ragwort Gorse	Check/Treat for Varroa - Disease check Extract honey – Feed - Prepare for show Reduce entrance to guard against robbing Storage of supers
October	Feeding - Laying Queen Sufficient Ventilation Disease & Varroa Free Weatherproof hive.	Ivy	Heft hives - checking stores - Feeding Provide Ventilation – Fit Mouse guards Tie down hives – Tidy-up Apiary Check for knockdown mites after treatment
November	Sufficient Stores Peace & Quiet Protection from elements & rodents	Gorse Ivy Mahonia	Check apiary after bad weather - Check legs on hive stands - Clean & store equipment Treat timber work - Ensure hives are waterproof –Insulate under roof - Study Feed Fondant - Oxalic acid - varroa New Equipment - Candle making Plan for next year - Find new sites Access colony records - Provide Drinkers Rearrange hives in cold weather only
December			
January			
February	Stores Water	Crocus, Yew Daffodils Snowdrops Hazel, Willow	Heft hives - Remove mouse guards Fondant if necessary - Treat timber of hives Monitor mite drop - Prepare and clean equipment
March	Stores Pollen - Water Space for egg laying	Blackthorn Willow Gorse	Feed Fondant - syrup only towards the end of month - Monitor Varroa & treat if necessary Check for fatality & close down Wax frames. Monitor hive entrances
April	Queen Right Space for laying Stores Disease Free	Dandelion Blackthorn Flowering Current Top Fruit Mahonia	First inspection if weather is warm, Check Q-right – Mark the Queen - Check Stores - Swarm prevention - Disease Replace old frames - Remove mouse guards, Shallow frames for drone production Add Q-excluder & super if colony is expanding - Feed nucs with contact feeder
May	Space for laying Space for Bees Space for nectar ripening	Whitethorn Chestnut, Apple Sycamore Alder, Bluebell	Swarm control – weekly inspections Put on excluder & super as needed Q rearing - Nuc production Monitor varroa levels using mesh floor
June	Space for laying Space for Bees Space for nectar ripening	White Clover	Inspect for Swarming, Colony health and colony expansion. Re-Queen if necessary Add super if 8-10 frames covered
July	Space for laying and Bees Space for nectar ripening	Clover, Heather Lime, Lavender	Ventilation - Extra supers where required Swarm control – weekly inspections
Note: Depending on locality & weather conditions bee work will vary from the above.			

