

HONEY DO LIST

Monthly Beekeeping Checklist



SEPTEMBER

September is an odd month just because weather is so unpredictable. It can be high 90's and humid or it can be 40's and dry. As a beekeeper it is important to prepare for all of these scenarios and understand that as the dramatic changes in the weather happen, your bees become more frustrated because like you, they are trying to adapt their plans for the coming weeks. Be patient with your bees and they will respect you during this month.

This is a great time to begin looking back at each of your inspections in the Healthy Hive Inspection™ Software to determine how well you have done during your beekeeping system. It will help you determine how much effort you need to put into making sure our colony survives the winter.

CHECKLIST

- **Suggestion:** Plan your inspections around the hot weather. It can be hot and this can tend to make the bees a little ornerier than usual. Plan inspections around cooler weather rather than super-hot days. It will also make beekeepers more comfortable, too!
- **Observation:** Bearding and fanning are normal behaviors by the doors. **ACTION:** Be sure to open the vent board according to the guidelines. These can be found on the Inspection Checklist.
- Make water available, both inside the hive and outside of the hive. This can be done by filling the feeder jar with straight water and outside with a bird bath, rain barrel or kiddie pool with corks in it for the bees to land on.
- Replace water often and keep the water fresh. Droughts affect bees more significantly than other creatures, so keep this in mind as during weeks with little to know rain.
- **Observation:** Comb production will slow significantly. **ACTION:** Limit the number of new bars added to the hive.
- **Observation:** Bees will be producing significant amounts of honey and the bars may become wider. Pay attention to this using the following guidelines and always note in the Healthy Hive Inspection™ Software.
 1. Mark connected bars with an X to denote that they should be moved as if they are a single bar.
 2. If there are wide bars that are not attaching to the bars next to them, add spacer bars around them and note in your Inspection Checklist and Software.

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- As the hive begins to reach capacity, remove a few bars of honey and store them in the Harvest Box. Your Harvest Box should be stored in a cool dry area where pests cannot get to it. If you are unsure about pests, plug the entrances and tape the sides to limit their invasion.
- Observation:** Watch for honey stores in general. Assess the need to feed. If the bees are struggling to fill comb with honey, we recommend our honey tea recipe (can be found on Beepods Blog).
- Begin planning for winter. Location; Winterizing Kit; Inspection Schedule with fewer inspections with cooler temperatures; Food availability from plants?

This checklist was created for beekeepers specifically in Midwest, USA. It may need to be adjusted for other beekeepers based on weather, location and other environmental factors. This list will be updated and variations will be created over time as needed. If you would like to help with the development of these checklists, please, contact us.

Always be sure to check Beepods.com for updated lists or information in the Members Resource Area.

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