

# INTRODUCTION TO BEEKEEPING

## The Beekeeping Year



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## Spring

March, April, May



- ❑ Colony increases rapidly
- ❑ Monitor varroa levels
- ❑ First Inspection
- ❑ Swarm control
- ❑ 1 week inspections

40,000 workers  
1 queen\*  
400 drones

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## Summer

June, July, August



- ❑ Many bees , good honey crop
- ❑ Remove first crop in June
- ❑ Second in early August
- ❑ Ensure hives are bee-tight
  - Robbing by bees and wasps
- ❑ Extract the honey and store

70,000 workers  
1 queen  
1000 drones

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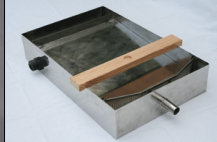
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## Extraction and storage

- ❑ Uncapping
- ❑ Extractors
- ❑ Filters
- ❑ Storage



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## Autumn September, October, November

- ❑ Remove old combs
- ❑ Treat for diseases
  - Varroa, nosema
- ❑ Look for other diseases
  - Foulbrood
  - Shake off all bees
- ❑ Feed



30,000 workers  
1 queen  
No drones

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## Prepare for poor weather

- ❑ Bees cluster to keep warm
- ❑ Use honey and shiver to generate heat
- ❑ Wind, frost pockets
- ❑ Mouse guards
- ❑ Protection (woodpeckers)



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## Winter December, January, February



- ❑ Go on holiday!
- ❑ Crisis time for the colony
- ❑ Starvation
- ❑ Watch the entrance!

10,000 workers  
1 queen  
No drones

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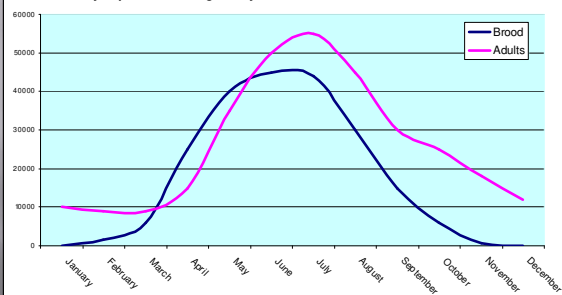
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Colony Population through the year




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## Record Card for Beekeeping

Apiary 2		Colony 4				Queen bred from Apiary 1 Colony 1 in 1999					Notes	
Date 2000	Q	QC	Blood	Stomach	Room	Health	Varroa	Temper	Feed	Supper		Weather
4/3	x	x	✓	5	5	✓	I	10	1 LS	0	S, 15	Removed mouse guard
1/4	x	x	e ✓	5	5	✓	I	10	1 LS	+1	S, 17	Replaced floor board with varroa floor
22/4	✓ B	x	e 4	10	5	CB	200	9	0	+2	C, 19	Roof needs repainting
7/5	✓	x	e 7	25	5	✓	200	10	0	-1	S, 21	Cut grass under hive

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