

TIPS FOR DECEMBER

1. Continue monitoring food stores. Pollen patty feeding can be discontinued as your hives remain clustered most days. However, during warmer days, your bees will fly, searching for food sources. You may find bees burrowing into chicken feed, sawdust etc. They are attempting to find a source of protein and will gather any type of dust thinking is it a protein source. You can open feed protein powder in December and January. It is not completely necessary, but any feeding is helpful.

2. During quick hive inspections you will most likely see the size of the cluster diminish over time. The bees will be clustering more and more tightly as the weather gets colder. You will also see a slow loss in population as the fall workers die. This is normal. Hives often lose strength over winter, thus the larger and stronger the hive is going into winter, the better.

3. If you plan to purchase nucs or queens in 2024, ordering now will ensure you are able to get the earliest possible pick-up dates next year.

4. If you notice your harvested honey crystallizing, there are several methods to re-liquefy. Honey should never be warmed over 120 degrees to protect nutrients and healthy enzymes.