

## TIPS FOR SEPTEMBER

1. September can bring cooler weather and some moisture, or scorching heat. Either way, continue to focus on maintaining 30 lbs. of stored food for your bees.

2. Test for mites, as mite populations can begin to climb, necessitating mite treatment. If you have 2 or less mites per 100 bees, treatment is not necessary. However, if you do have mites per 100 bees, test again in October.

3. September begins the rearing of winter bees. Worker bees rear two kinds of bees-spring/summer bees and winter bees. Spring/summer bees are almost disposable, and are not fed quite the same diet. During those months, bees work so hard they work themselves to death in a matter of weeks, thus they are reared on a less than ideal diet. Winter bees are fed as close to a perfect diet as possible, to ensure they can survive the winter.

As beekeepers, it is crucial that we provide the bees with all the food and nutrition needed for our bees to rear the healthiest possible winter bees. We recommend feeding at least 2 lbs. of pollen substitute in September, October, and November to guarantee sufficient nutrition is available.

4. If you want to requeen your hive, September is probably the last month to do so. This is may be the last month queens are available, so take advantage of the final opportunity to requeen if your queen is over a year old.