

Winter Preparation Check List

Winter Preparation Task	What to Do or Look For	Mitigation
Harvest Honey Supers	Remove in August, September	Can leave one super FULL of honey on top
Check Queen	August, September, October Check for signs of queen - open larva and brood Find your queen	Requeen if September Combine colonies if October
Check for Enough Bees	Boxes seem full of bees. Both boxes, 20,000ish	Combine colonies Make a nuc
Check Honey Stores	60 lbs, minimum Tilt test Each full frame weighs 7 lbs	Feed 2:1 Sugar to Water in September, October, November
Healthy - Mite free	Mite count less than 3% ... or just treat	Treat September Oxalic in December
Remove Queen Excluders Between Boxes	Take off the Queen Excluder	
Remove Honey Supers	Remove all unnecessary boxes	
Complete all Treatments in October and Remove	Early November	
Orient Boxes and Crowd Bees	October Remove any empty boxes Conventional - 2 boxes Move all brood to bottom and middle Stores bottom outside frames Top - honey over the brood	
Feeders Off	Take off any top or entrance feeders when night temperature drops to 40F or below	
Close the Bottom	October, November Slide in IPM board or set hive on board	
Provide Adequate Ventilation	October, November Tilt hive forward. Raise back 1 - 2" Place inner cover on top deep box, flat side down Leave oval hole and notched cuts open Push outer cover forward so notch at edge is open. Outer cover centered side to side	
Place Mouse Guards	October, November Check that you are not trapping a mouse in! Close entrance reducer Smaller notch facing upward	
Oxalic Treat in December	Dribble or fume	
Check Weight December	Lift test	Emergency Feed
Check Weight January	Lift test	Emergency Feed
Check Weight February	Lift test	Emergency Feed
Check Weight March	Lift test	Emergency Feed