

Fall Beekeeping Checklist

This checklist of autumn beekeeping tasks will help you plan the jobs that need doing and reduce the risk of forgetting some essential routines.

Fall Beekeeping Checklist		
Task	Schedule Date	Complete
Check honey reserves in the colony for winter.		<input type="checkbox"/>
Harvest excess honey supers.		<input type="checkbox"/>
Plant fall flowers for your bees.		<input type="checkbox"/>
Check all colonies have a queen.		<input type="checkbox"/>
Re-queen colonies that require it at the beginning of autumn		<input type="checkbox"/>
Check all colonies for pests that enter the hive in summer. Hive beetles, wax moths, etc.		<input type="checkbox"/>
Treat for varroa mites		<input type="checkbox"/>
Feed bees 2:1 (2 sugar to 1 water) syrup to encourage storage for winter		<input type="checkbox"/>
Replace screened bottom boards on hives with solid bottom boards for heat retention		<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduce top ventilation on the hive, but do not close it off completely – the bees still need some ventilation to remove stale and humid air.		<input type="checkbox"/>
Install mouse guards on hive entrances to prevent these rodents from moving in during the winter.		<input type="checkbox"/>
Prepare Snelgrove or double-screen boards to overwinter nuc colonies on top of strong colonies.		<input type="checkbox"/>
Place nuc colonies on top of strong colonies with a double-screen separator one week before your first frost.		<input type="checkbox"/>
Erect windbreaks for hives exposed to cold winter winds.		<input type="checkbox"/>

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