

B.C.H.P.A. - CAPITAL REGION DIVISION

Bulletin No.12

To those of you who are not students attending the beekeeping classes, have no bees and are expecting packages of bees for the first time, please note that, by law, you must register your name, address and location of your apiary, with the Apiary Office, 4607 - 23rd Street, VARNON, B.C., V1T 4K7, in order to receive a Certificate of Registration. Also, before moving your bees from one location to another, a permit to move must be obtained from the local Bee Inspector.

By the time you receive this, and weather permitting (fingers crossed), your bees should be flying freely and bringing in pollen to feed the brood of the new queen, but you must continue to FEED, and FEED, and FEED the new colonies with sugar syrup, if no honey is available in the hive, until the working bees bring in sufficient nectar and pollen to meet the demand.

As soon as the weather warms up, bottom boards should be scraped clean of all debris. At the same time, check hive weight for store of honey. Bees found dead with tongues extended, shows that they have died of starvation. If there is worker brood in masses, all is well, but if drone brood is seen, or there is patchy brood, you should re-queen. Then again, patchy brood may be caused by insufficient feeding which will cause the queen to lay in this fashion, but once increased feeding is given the queen will be restored to her normal laying capacity. If more dead bees die off after cleaning bottom boards, disease may be the cause. A wet board indicates bad ventilation or poor positioning, so move to higher ground or slightly tilt the hive forward.

One of the most valuable assets a colony can have just now, is a comb of pollen, as without pollen there can be no brood. There are usually one or two combs on either side of the brood circle. Move one of these right into the centre of the brood chamber, provided the stock is strong enough to cover the divided brood. You will be astonished at the rapid build-up which will result.

In checking for stored and fresh pollen, sealed and unsealed brood and the presence of royal jelly for feeding the larvae, you will no doubt check for queen cells, and by so doing, help to control swarming. A queen cell started high on the side of the frame means a SUPERSEDEURE, and a queen cell started on the bottom of the frame indicates a swarm impulse. A supersedure cell can result from a failing queen, and lack of fresh eggs may indicate the absence of a queen. You must make your own judgment as to whether to purchase and introduce a new queen or permit the hive to rear its own, but bear in mind that it takes 16 days for the queen egg to hatch, up to a week for her to mate and start egg laying, then another 21 days for her eggs to hatch into bees. The new bees might take from a week to ten days to develop into field workers, so we are looking at a period of about six weeks as against introducing a mated queen.

DO NOT FORGET TO PURCHASE AND ADMINISTER YOUR TERRAMYCIN.

Are you interested in HONEY recipes ? What about this one ?

HONEY LEMON LOAF. 1 cup honey ; ½ cup shortening ; 1 tsp salt ;
¼ cup milk ; 1 tsp soda ; 1½ tsp B.P.
2 eggs ; 2 tbs lemon juice ; 1 tbs grated lemon rind ; 2 cups flour .

Cream shortening, add honey slowly and continue beating. Add eggs one at a time and continue beating until light and creamy. Add dry ingredients alternately with milk. Fold in lemon juice and rind and bake in a well-greased cake tin for about 50 minutes at 325 degrees.
