

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

Bulletin No. 13

As I leave for a visit to Scotland on 2nd May, this will be my last bulletin for this season. There will, however, be a general meeting on 27th May, so I thought I would try to convey the message that the next two months are very important to beekeepers, for it is then that we must concentrate on building up our colonies and watch out for swarm impulses and endeavour to control them.

With the warm weather there will be much bee activity. You will by now have checked out your hives and decided whether to replace queens for the build-up to meet the oncoming honey flow. Until such time as the workers bring in sufficient nectar for brood rearing, you should not fail to continue the feeding.

Another important to observe is the supply of water. All through the breeding season, bees require water and are continually carrying it into the hive. Water is not stored in the combs but it is combined with nectar and pollen to prepare brood food and also to liquify granulated stores so as to render it fit for consumption. Should granules be found on the bottom board, this tells us that water is lacking, for in the absence of water the bees suck out the liquid part of the honey, leaving the granules. Drinking facilities, bees prefer running water, e.g. drip from a tap or hose pipe, should be arranged early in the Spring, for once the bees have formed the habit of visiting one drinking place they will not change.

You will also be concerned with supering. Much can be written on this subject, but perhaps a few pointers will suffice at this stage. When colonies have come through the winter and are strong in May, they will surely need to be supered. With the increase in brood, the brood chamber can become overcrowded and the bees will require more room to store honey. When you have at least seven frames filled with brood you had better think of adding a super, or make a division, if you wish to avoid swarming. Frequent swarming is a deterrent to honey production, but this depends on the strength of the queen. Watch out for queen cells throughout the frames, for they can be indicative of colony intentions and time to think seriously of replacing the queen. It is a good arrangement to keep colonies supplied with at least one super ahead of their needs. Should there be a heavy honey flow, the practice of rotating supers is to be recommended.

For those of you who are joining the 'outyards' for the first time, I cannot stress too strongly the importance of being prepared in so far as to have entrance blocks, covers and strappings in readiness for the move. In doubt, please seek help from those who have been there before.

How about a Cookie recipe ?

HONEY LEMON COOKIE.

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup vegetable Oil ; Juice and rind of one lemon
 $\frac{1}{4}$ " HONEY ; $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups flour ; $1\frac{1}{2}$ tsp B.Pwd.
1 egg

Beat well the vegetable oil and honey. Add lemon juice and rind and beat again. Add egg yolk and beat again. Add flour and B.P. and fold in stiffly beaten egg white. Drop by teaspoon on greased cookie sheet and bake at 400 degrees for about 10 minutes.

H.R.

4th April '75.