

Seasonal Management





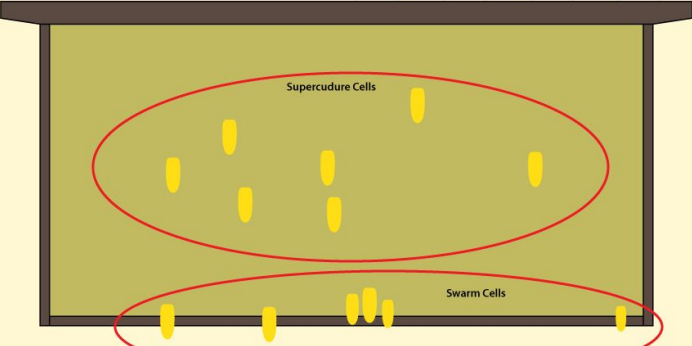
April

- Full inspection when warm enough
 - Check the brood pattern
 - Check for swarm cells
- Add space for brood rearing
- Put out swarm traps





 **Swarm and Supercedure Cells** 



Supercedure Cells

Swarm Cells

www.goldenbee.ca







May

- Major nectar flow begins
- Swarm prevention
 - Check for swarm cells
 - Rotate boxes/frames to slow swarming
 - Monitor space (avoid overcrowding)
- Add honey supers
- Make splits

WHAT IS THE 7/10 RULE?

7 OUT OF 10 FRAMES ACTIVELY WORKED



ADD A NEW HONEY SUPER



Simple Guideline: When 7/10 frames in the top box are active, it signals the colony is strong and needs more space.



Inspect from outside in. if frames 2-8 are active, add a super.







Top Supering

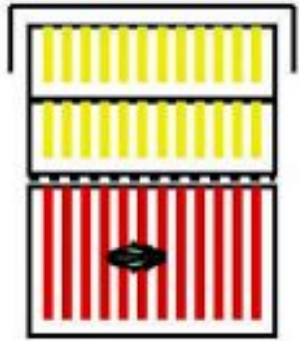


Bottom Supering

Figure 5b - Demaree applied to a hive on a single deep brood box with 12 frames of brood

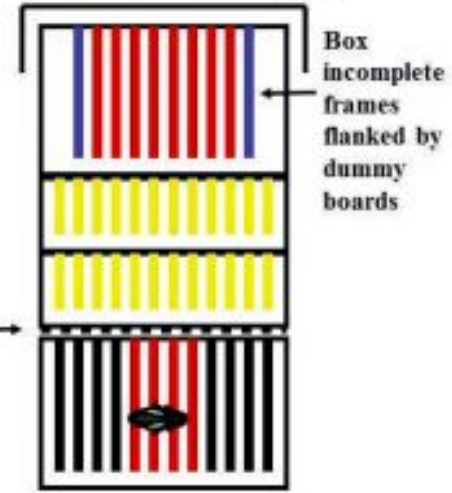
NB Hive could have been on brood and a half. Shallow brood would have been remained at bottom either over or under the deep brood

-  Empty frames
-  Brood
-  Stores
-  Dummy board

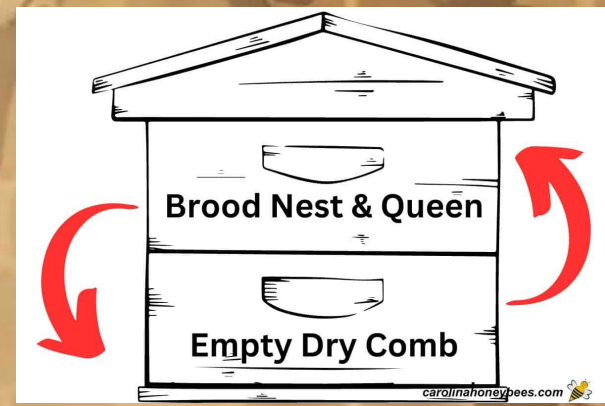


Before with single deep brood and 12 frames of brood

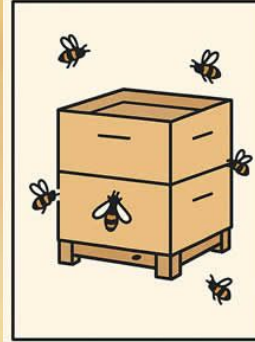
Supers
QE



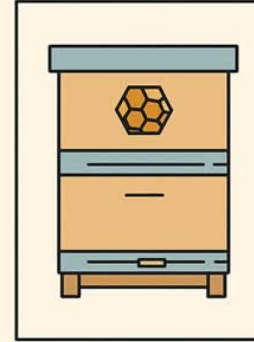
After with 8 frames of brood moved to top and 4 remaining at bottom



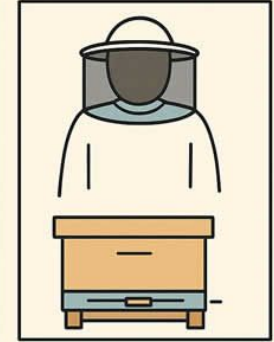
Splitting the Hive Using the Snelgrove Board



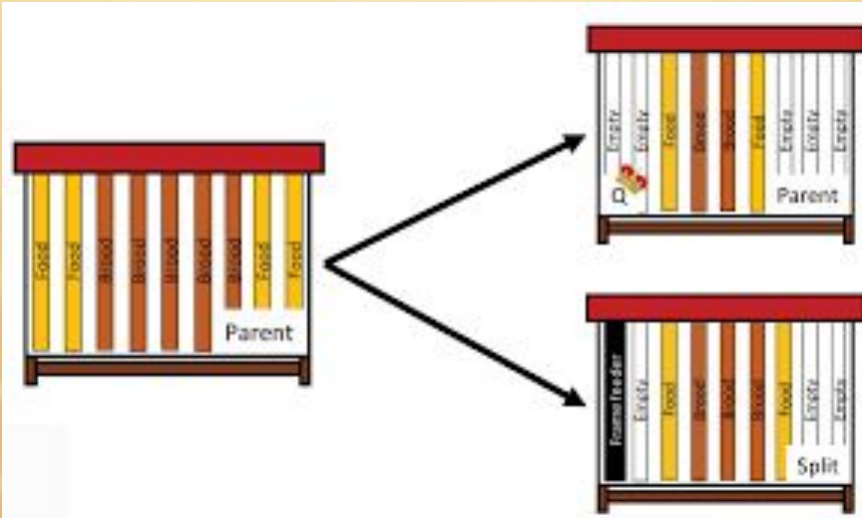
Queen in Lower Box

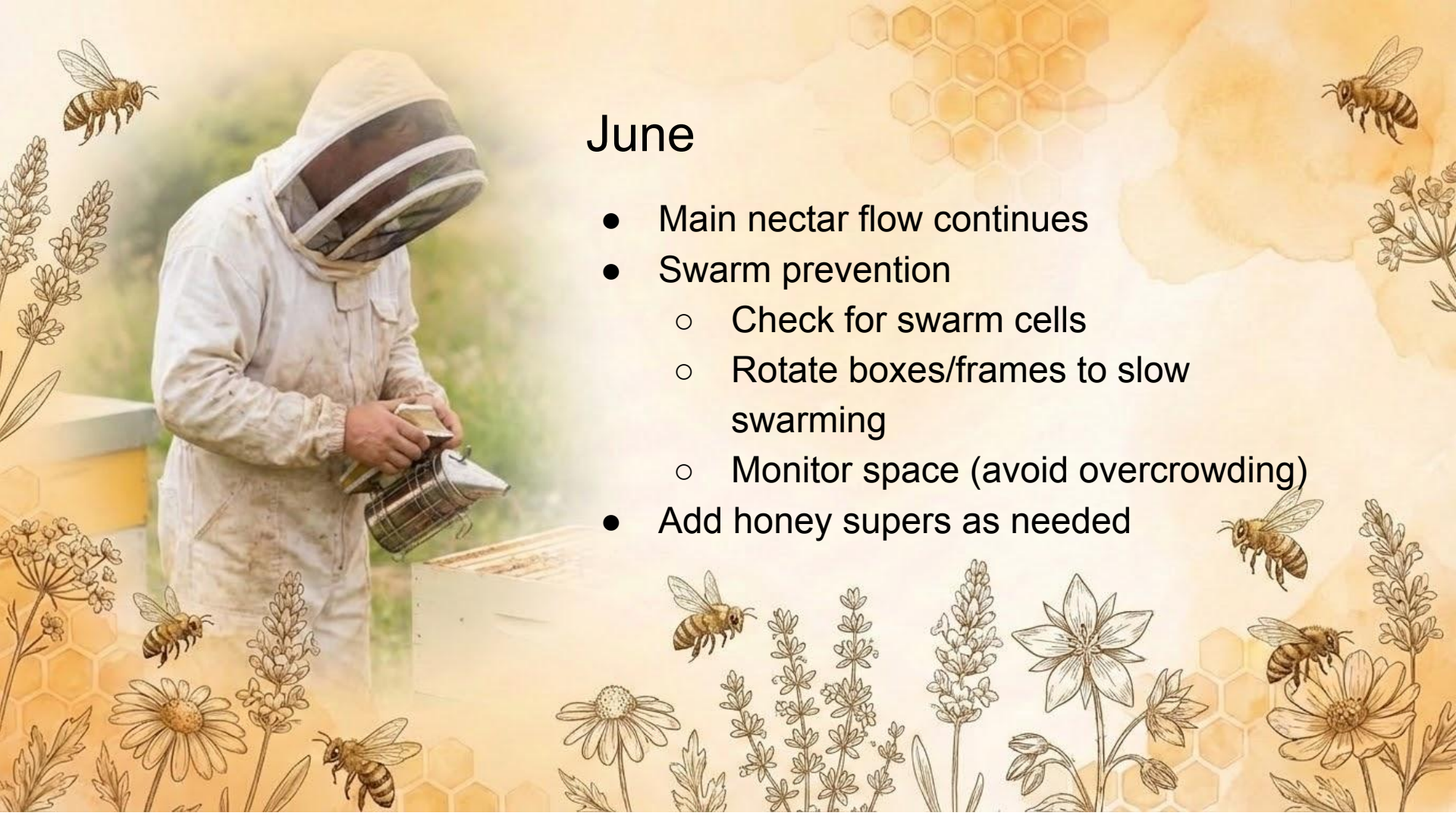


Brood in Upper Box



Entrances Controlled





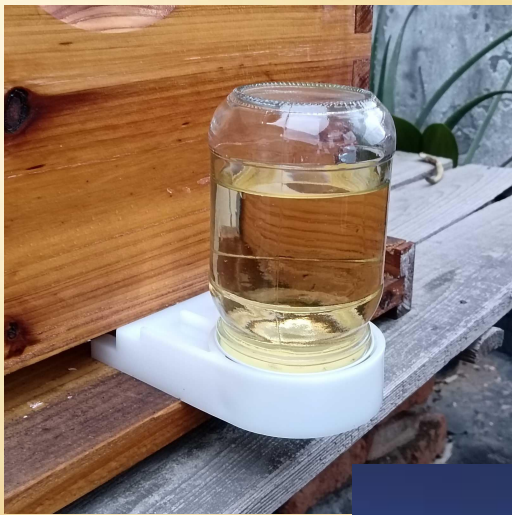
June

- Main nectar flow continues
- Swarm prevention
 - Check for swarm cells
 - Rotate boxes/frames to slow swarming
 - Monitor space (avoid overcrowding)
- Add honey supers as needed



July

- Nectar flow slows, possible dearth
- Can remove full honey supers for spring honey
- Feed 1:1 sugar water - stimulates comb building
- Watch for robbing
- Check for pests:
 - Varroa mites (alcohol wash)
- Water source



August

- Continue feeding (new splits/colonies)
- Check for pests, parasites, diseases:
 - Varroa mites (alcohol wash)
- Young queen ready for winter?



September

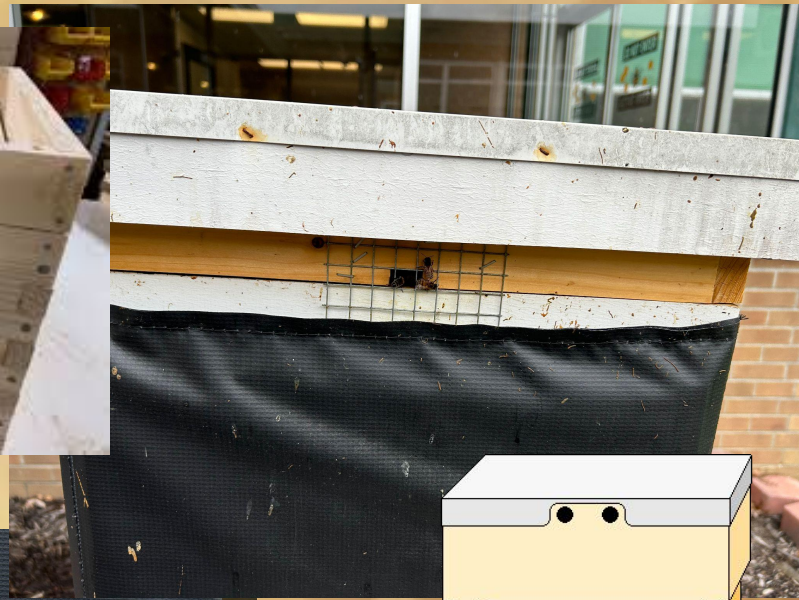
- Goldenrod flow starts
 - Add super if needed
- Harvest honey
- Feed 2:1 sugar water if no supers
- Check honey stores (~60-80 lbs)
- Entrance reducer to prevent robbing
- Check mite levels
- Evaluate colony strength
 - No pests, parasites, or disease



October

- Continue feeding if needed of 2:1 sugar water solution
- Install mouse guards
- Install top ventilation
- Candy board
- Set up hives for winter - weather dependent
- Combine weak colonies (why are they weak?)
- Check honey stores (~60-80 lbs)







November

- Check honey stores (~60-80 lbs)
- Provide wind breaks
- Winterize hives if not done already
- Remove liquid feed
- Strap down, tilt forward





December

- Take equipment inventory
- Plan for next season
- Can feed sugar brick or fondant if weather permits



January

- Check honey stores by lifting back of colony up
 - Feed sugar block or fondant if needed (if warm enough to open hive)
- Ensure ventilation
- Check hive entrance for dead bees
- Fix equipment for spring
- Order new bees, equipment, queens



February

- Check honey stores by lifting back of colony up
 - Feed sugar block or fondant if needed (if warm enough to open hive)
- Treat for mites if warm day (low number of capped brood)
- Assemble new frames & foundation
 - Prepare for spring splits



March

- Check food stores
 - Pollen patties - early March
- Mite check and treatment if not done last month
- Early inspections if weather permits
 - Queen activity
 - Food stores
 - Brood pattern



