



The Diablo

Newsletter of the Mount Diablo Beekeepers



January 2010

Please join us for our next meeting, January 14th at
7:30PM,

at the Heather Farms Garden Center in Walnut Creek.

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Currently Blooming



Visit the MDBA Yahoo Group
to keep up with what's going on
<http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/mtdiablobees/>

Equipment

Extractors:

Sylvia & Dan Goemmel
(6 frame)

Lois (8 frame)

Jeff Peacock (6/3
frame + old 4 frame
extractor that needs
some repair)

Demo Hive:

Powdered Sugar

Blowers:

Gary

Jeff Peacock

Extractor with

1/28/2010



Winter Management

Some insects hibernate over the winter. In spring, they warm up and get growing. Honeybees are gathering and storing nectar and pollen in the times with variable success) in order to make the honey and bee-bread survive the winter. If bees simply went into a suspended-animation "torp the bees wouldn't store any honey for us!

Food

Bees don't hibernate (they den), so they need enough honey and pollen the winter. You need to make sure they have enough food. The easiest feel the weight of the hive. If it is easy to pick up, you need to feed it. If it 50 lbs (hard to lift or impossible), then you are fine. Honey has weight, a weighs much.

If you need to feed, then mix a supersaturated sugar water solution and The bees must not be able to immerse in the liquid or they will drown. Put walking screen to get them safely down to the syrup.

Winter Syrup: 1 Gallon of hot water: 10lbs White Sugar

Do not make a weak solution. It needs to be as viscous as honey. You w sugar in hot water on the stove. Tap water is not hot enough.

If you need to feed sugar, you may need to feed pollen (protein). Use ½ hive (MannLake near UC Davis is good).

You will find this to be very messy. Feeding also causes bees to rob each be attracted to the food. The syrup evaporates (if weak or not mixed) an moisture to the hive. Bees seal their stored food with wax, so pests can send out a loud signal to ants and mice and others when we spill syrup (some goes in!).

You will likely have to feed your bees the first year (because you will get when the bloom is mostly over). After that, you may decide to just leave the winter!

Hive Environment