

Beekeeper's Inspection Checklist



1) OUTSIDE OF HIVE

- # of bees coming & going
- Pollen going in
- Crowded entrance
- Fighting or robbing
- Weight of hive (food stores)
- Spotting (treat for nosema?)
- Dead bees on entrance or ground
- Bees on ground (mites? poison?)
- Equipment (box, stand, weathering)
- Water source (reliable, persistent)
- Neighbor issues?
- Tall grass (pest bridges)
- Sun/shade level

2) FRAME

- Temperament of bees
- # of bees on frames
- # of frames with bees
 - If < 6 frames, combine?
 - If full, split?
- Swarm signs
 - Queen cups, open, empty
 - Queen cells (larvae or closed w/ pupa, bottom of frame)
 - Supersedure cells (on frame sides)
- Brood pattern appropriate
- Larvae in jelly?
- Queen sighting or signs?
- Bees with deformities?

4) BEEKEEPER

- Order ahead of time (bees, queens, equipment, jars, labels, PDB, etc)
- Equipment for supering, harvesting, wintering
- Record keeping
- Learn more (bee club, books, internet, etc.)

3) FRAME

- Honey stores
 - If 80% full, add super
 - If low then feed
 - Have 30 lbs for winter
- Pollen, Bee bread, add sub?
- Feeder status? Add?
- Pests (Small hive beetles, Wax moths, ants, etc)
- Nurse bee behavior
- Drones, drone cells
- Dirty comb (replace after ~5 years)
- Burr comb (clean?)
- Cell Level
 - 1 egg at bottom of cell
 - Multiple eggs in cells
 - Slightly convex wax cappings
 - Perforations in wax cappings
 - Color & cond of wax & cappings
 - Mites on pupa?
- 300 Bee Level
- Mite Count
 - Alcohol wash
 - Sugar Roll
 - Sticky board
- Is it time to treat?

Bee Hive Inspection Checklist, Date & Time:



Hive # or name						
Weather (°F, clouds)						
Entrance activity, low, mod, high						
Pollen going in?						
Bees on Ground?						
Robbing?	https://metrobeekeepers.net					
Hive weight (light, med, heavy)						
Equipment (stand, boxes, lids)						
Ventilation, screen bottom, shade						
Box #						
# frames bees						
# frames brood						
Brood pattern (solid, spotty)						
Larva present?						
Eggs present? 1 at bottom of cell?						
Brood caps: concave, perforated						
Jelly (dry, moderate, heavy)						
Queen swarm cells, bottom						
Queen cups						
Queen supersedure cells, sides						
# frames drone brood						
Hive Beetles						
# frames capped honey						
# frames nectar (uncapped)						
# frames pollen, # colors						
# frames empty cells						
# frames undrawn foundation						
Hive Temperament						
Excluder (remove by Sept)						
Pest or Disease signs						
Varroa test						
Comments, Actions						

Actions to consider: feed, test, treat, SHB trap, add or remove box, split, combine, report disease or poison

# Frames bees	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Good	7	8	10	14	16	16	13	10	10	11	9	8
Help Needed	4	4	6	7	8	9	8	7	8	8	7	6
Doomed	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	4	5	5	5

Help: test, kill varroa, re-queen, add brood, add bees, feed syrup/pollen

Doomed: test, kill varroa, combine

Frames honey: at least 10 full frames both sides by mid-Oct

Frames honey: similar to # frames of brood

Frames pollen: > 1 full frame both sides when eggs or brood present

Spotty brood caused by:

- Failing queen
- Varroa
- Hot dry conditions
- Poor nutrition (cannibalize)
- Not enough space for nectar & pollen
- Chalkbrood
- European Foulbrood

Inspector name(s) _____

Date _____

Hive name _____

Activity level **High** **Med** **Low**

Pollen going in **Yes** **No**

- Basics:**
- Queen health
 - Colony strength
 - Food
 - Pests or Disease
 - Housing

Box # (from top)	1	2	3	4
# Frames of Bees				
# Frames Honey				
# Frames Brood				
Brood pattern?				
# Frames Empty				
Queen cells, cups?				
Varroa mite count				

Actions

Possible actions: feed, test, treat, SHB trap, add or remove box, split, combine, re-queen, fix boxes or stand, checkerboard frames, rotate boxes, report disease or poison, etc.

Inspector name(s) _____

Date _____

Hive name _____

Activity level **High** **Med** **Low**

Pollen going in **Yes** **No**

- Basics:**
- Queen health
 - Colony strength
 - Food
 - Pests or Disease
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Actions

Possible actions: feed, test, treat, SHB trap, add or remove box, split, combine, re-queen, fix boxes or stand, checkerboard frames, rotate boxes, report disease or poison, etc.

Inspection Checklist, Outside

- **Be ready for contingencies (clothing, boxes, frames, buckets, pollen sub, nectar sub)**
- **# of bees coming & going**
- **Crowded entrance**
- **Fighting or robbing**
- **Pollen going in**
- **Water source**
- **Sounds of bees**
- **Spotting**
- **Bees crawling on ground**
- **Dead bees on ground**
- **Equipment (weathering)**
- **Any neighbor issues**
- **Tall grass around hives (ant & pest bridges)**
- **Sun/shade level**



Inspection Checklist, Inside

- **Smoke before opening**
- **Temperament of bees**
- **Pests (SHB, moths, etc)**
- **# of bees on frames**
- **# of frames with bees**
- **If not enough bees, consider combining**
- **Queen health**
 - **Brood pattern**
 - **Queen cups (open, no larvae)**
 - **Queen cells (larvae or closed with pupa)**
 - **Supercedure cells (on frame sides)**
 - **Queen sighting**
- **Stores (honey, pollen)**
- **Cells**
 - **Eggs, single at base**
 - **Slightly convex wax**
 - **Perforations in wax**
 - **Wax color & condition**
- **Bees with deformities**
- **Nurse bee behavior**
- **Drones, drone cells**
- **Old comb (replace)**



Inspection Checklist

- **Mite Count**
 - **CO2, sugar roll, alcohol**
 - **Time to medicate?**
- **After inspections**
 - **Place orders ahead of time (bees, queens, equipment, jars, labels, etc)**
 - **Equipment for supering, harvesting**
 - **Record keeping**
 - **Learn more**
 - **Bee club, books, web, etc.**

