Puget Sound Beekeepers Association

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Pre-Blackberry Build Up
What Do Cells Looks Like?

BTW, There are too many drones here
Maximize Colony Build Up

Photos Courtesy of Randy Oliver, ScientificBeekeeping.com

Learn to read whether your bees are hungry and for what
Do I Add Another Box?

• No

• Yes!
Should I Feed 1:1 Syrup With My Super On?

• **For Sure No**
  – Already have drawn comb?
  – I’m planning to sell my honey

• **Maybe, Yes**
  – New frames with no drawn comb
  – Frames with partly drawn comb before the blackberries bloom
Providing Custom Need-Based Space

• 2 Large colonies with LOTS of bees & overwintered fall queens
• Notice upper entrance preference
• Colony on right swarmed (Oops!)
• Colony with 2 supers is the typical size for a 1st year colony

Different color patterns reduce drift between colonies
A Word On Queen Excluders

Keeps the queen out of your supers + keeps the honey comb nice & light

• Openings run parallel with frames (easier for workers to get through)

• Openings are perpendicular to frames (harder for workers to get through)

https://www.mannlakeltd.com
Upper Entrances Increase Honey Yield

Using Imrie shims speeds up nectar storage & evaporation

- Above the queen excluder so workers bypass brood area
- Every 2nd box
- Inner cover with entrance just under

Note: You must stay ahead of the nectar storage space AND The brood nest space to prevent swarming
Continuing Education

- Books
- Websites
  - Scientificbeekeeping.com
  - Honeybeesuite.com
- Check PSBA website for apiary work parties
- Neighborhood captains
- YouTube Videos
- Apprentice & Journeyman Beekeeper program