Puget Sound Beekeepers Association

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Master Beekeeper

Early Spring Management
Inspecting Your Hive(s)

- Have a plan – what is your purpose for opening the hive
- Bring tools & your notebook or online device to record your inspection
- Get your woodenware ready ahead of time
- Only move frames if over 55 degrees F
- Work your hive from the back or side – don’t block the entrance
- Avoid opening hives while it’s raining or windy
- Complete all inspections during the afternoon while foragers are in the field
First Of The Season Inspections

• Early Spring (March/April)
  – Use hive tool to clear bottom board of dead bees and/or debris
  – Check for egg & brood pattern
  – Check Food stores – should never get below 10#
    • Feed 1:1 sugar syrup
    • Add a pollen patty
  – Reverse Your Boxes (Careful not to separate the brood)
Inspecting Your Hives
Photos Courtesy of Randy Oliver, ScientificBeekeeping.com

Learn to read whether your bees are hungry.
Preparing A Home For Your New Bees

Packages

- Last Chance To Paint
  - Use Exterior Latex On All Outside Surfaces
- Build/Set Up Your Hive Stands

Nucs

- Check The PSBA Website For Suggested Equipment List
- Vendor Partners Are Also Listed
- Talk With Your Neighbors About Your New Bees – Using Social Distancing
Feeding Your Bees

• **Pollen Patties**
  – Should have lots of brood, and just like us, the bees need food in their pantries in case they can’t go get more (ie rain/cold)
  – Impacts queen health & ongoing acceptance

• **1:1 Sugar Syrup**
  – Once the average daily temps are around 55°
  – Used for food on those rainy spring days & for building wax

• **Supplements**
  – White vinegar (acetic acid), 1-2T per gallon
  – Lemon Juice (vitamin C), 1T per gallon
  – Essential Oils (amount varies by manufacturer)

• **NOTE:** DO NOT feed your bees honey from the store or from unknown sources, it may contain foulbrood spoors. Do Not feed brown sugar or molasses.
Giant Asian Hornet

Immediately Report any sightings:

• 800-443-6684
• PestProgram@agr.wa.gov
Have Time On Your Hands?

• Read a Beekeeping Book
• Watch Educational YouTube Videos
  – Dave Burns, Master Beekeeper Colony Inspection
    https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5h8Z5zn1Clw
  – Learn How To Do Splits
• Subscribe To An Online Magazine
  – Bee Culture
  – American Bee Journal
• If You Get Stuck or Have Questions, E-Mail Your Neighborhood Captain