



# Pigeon Mountain Trading Company® Bee Calendar

*A monthly list of what to do and the equipment you need*

## January

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- ◆ Reduce the hive entrance; check for blockage from buildup (dead bees, debris, snow.)
- ◆ Be sure the roof is secure. Windy winter and spring weather are still possible.
- ◆ Emergency feeding if necessary.
- ◆ Record your observations for each hive instead of relying on memory.
- ◆ Take the time off to read a good book and attend local bee club meetings.
- ◆ Place your packaged bees order for this year, if you haven't already done so.

## January Needs...

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- bee suit
- smoker / hive tools
- hive feeders
- entrance reducers
- books
- package bees and queens

## February

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- ◆ Medicate at least 60 days prior to adding supers.
- ◆ As the cluster grows, shift frames with eggs to the center and move frames of sealed brood to the outer position.
- ◆ Add brood chambers with drawn comb to the strongest hives.
- ◆ Reverse double brood chambers to move the empty frames to the top and center. This will stimulate growth of the hive.

## February Needs...

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- bee suit
- smoker / hive tools
- medication

## March

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- ◆ If your area lacks sufficient pollen sources, you may need to consider feeding.
- ◆ Continue the frame rotations started in February and begin to alternate the frames according to brood age.

## March Needs...

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- bee suit • smoker
- hive tools • hive feeders
- supplements & feed

## April

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- ◆ Now that the weather is warming up, remove the entrance reducers.
- ◆ In order to prevent swarming: add supers, spread out the frames with brood, cut queen cells, limit barriers to bee movement upward into the supers.
- ◆ Consider placing swarm traps in the Apiary to catch any swarms.
- ◆ Replace any queens due to old age, temperament, or bad brood pattern.

## April Needs...

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- Bee suit
- smoker / hive tools
- Swarm traps
- Supers

## May

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- ◆ Add a queen excluder, and place honey supers.
- ◆ Give the bees plenty of room to bring in the pollen and nectar. Toward the end of the nectar flow you will want to crowd the bees to finish out partially-filled supers.
- ◆ Check for hive beetles and install traps if necessary

## May Needs...

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- Bee suit • smoker • hive tools • Queen excluder
- Supers / Frames / Foundation
- Hive Beetle Traps

## June

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- ◆ Begin to take off frames of capped honey and replace with empty frames/foundation.
- ◆ Be sure to place bee escapes before removing entire supers.

## June Needs...

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- Bee suit • Bee escapes
- smoker / hive tools
- Supers / Frames / Foundation

## July

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- ◆ The nectar flow will continue this month.
- ◆ You may even find your bees festooning (bees hanging on to one another, leg to leg, like a bridge) between the frames. Although very common, there is no known reason why.
- ◆ Add more supers as needed.

## July Needs...

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- Extracting equipment
- Containers
- Labels

## August

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- ◆ The hive begins to slow down as the nectar flow decreases.

## September

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- ◆ The hive population drops and the drones begin to die off.
- ◆ Harvest the remainder of your honey crop. Remember to leave the hive with at least 60 pounds for use over the winter.
- ◆ Near the end of the month, feed and medicate.
- ◆ Install Apistan strips or CheckMite (for 42 days)

## September Needs...

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- Apistan
- CheckMite wax moth treatment

## October

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- ◆ The bees are preparing for winter.
- ◆ Add any necessary insulation or windbreaks
- ◆ Remove the Apistan or CheckMite strips.

## October Needs...

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- Store your equipment.

## November

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- ◆ The bees are clustering together on colder days to stay warm.
- ◆ Begin think of all the terrific honey-related gifts you could prepare for Christmas gifts: Bottle your honey in decorative containers, make candles with your beeswax

## November Needs...

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- beeswax
- Books

## December

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- ◆ Begin your search for package bees. They sell out quickly!
- ◆ Enjoy the holidays!

## December Needs...

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- Books
- Gifts