

June to-do list...

Summary

TO DO:

- Regular inspections, at least weekly, especially checking for queen cells
- Ensure there is space in the brood area for egg laying to prevent swarming. Going to a brood and half or double brood can help
- Feed if the weather is poor or there is a lack of natural food
- Add supers when and if needed
- This is possibly the last opportunity that you will be able to split your strong hives or rear a new colony
- Prepare for honey production soon so check your extraction equipment and count your jars

EQUIPMENT which may be required

- Spare frames, hives, nuc boxes and supers
- Fondant based and liquid feeders and feed
- Jars

Points to ponder

Many beekeepers have difficulty in deciding when to 'super their colonies'. A super is best placed on top of the previous one when it is about two thirds full, especially where foundation has to be drawn. Bees can often be reluctant to enter a new super, but this can be overcome by swapping two empty frames near the centre of the new super with a couple of frames of open honey from the previous super. The exception to this rule is where sections are being produced. In this case the new section crate is placed beneath the first when the first is almost full. This prevents travel staining caused by the bees walking over the sealed sections. It is good practice to give the colony plenty of storage room to prevent congesting the brood nest but with section production the opposite occurs making the colony more likely to swarm.