

GOOD BEEKEEPING PRACTICES | Bee Feeding and Watering

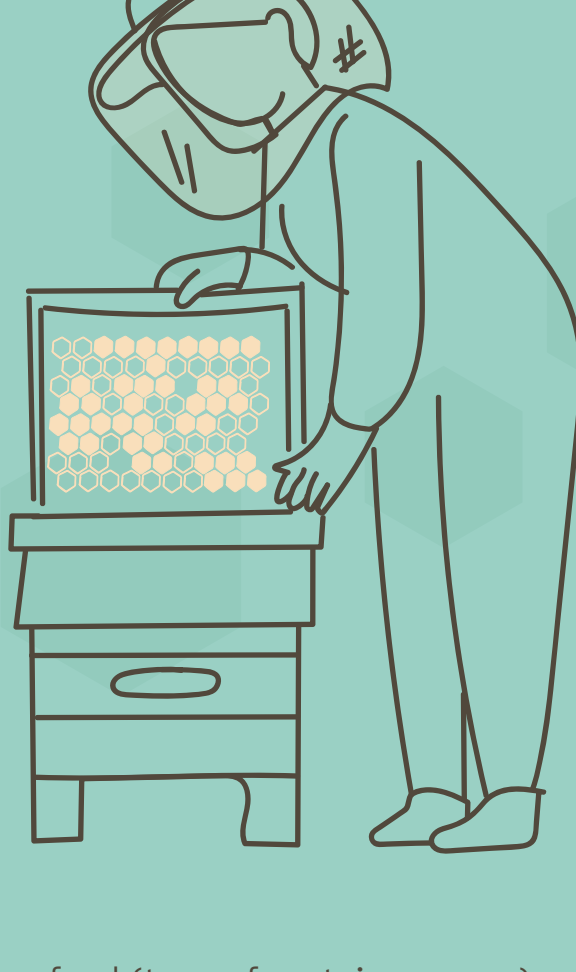
Feeding

How to provide artificial feeding during times of shortage

Beekeepers can feed their bees with feed that they prepare themselves, such as sugar syrups or candy (fondant).

Things to add:

- Properly record what they give to the bees and when they provide it in the appropriate register (including details such as the type/brand of sugar used, the batch number, and other relevant information to ensure traceability).
- Indicating that feeding should be done only if needed (e.g. small swarms during rainy springs, lack of food stores, etc.) to guarantee high quality of the honey.
- Specifying some commonly used recipes (or percentages sugar:water), such as sugar-based or protein-based



feed (type of protein sources), depending on the season and/or the specific situation.

- Ensure that the origin of feeds is verified. These include: artificial feeds, sugar, honey, and pollen. It is essential that they come from a traceable source, free of pathogens, and not sourced from infected apiaries or colonies.



step 1

Feeding honeybees during the active beekeeping season (spring – summer)

is usually not necessary, because bees have enough natural food sources during the warmer part of the year.

However, in certain situations, it is necessary to take measures within beekeeping work to ensure the health and vitality of honeybee colonies, thereby improving the yield of bee products.



step 2

In summer, colonies are fed due to:

- **Lack of nectar:** if there is a pronounced drought or the plants "do not honey", the bees may have difficulty collecting enough natural food. In this case, feeding may be necessary to keep honeybee colonies in good shape for the upcoming main pastures.
- **Adverse weather conditions:** if the weather conditions are bad, such as many continuous rainy days and cloudy weather, the bees cannot get out of the hives, so adding food can be considered. In case of a complete lack and unavailability of natural food, bee colonies must be feeded by intervention.
- **Increased feed consumption:** during intensive swarming that requires the consumption of larger amounts of feed, feeding can compensate for such consumption.



step 3

How to feed bees in summer?

Sugar syrup: the most commonly used is an aqueous sugar syrup in a 1:1 ratio (thinner or thicker syrup can be offered, depending on the purpose). The prepared sugar syrup can be placed in a feeder or a customised bag inside the hive.



step 4

Patties (cakes): sugar, honey, pollen, or protein content

are usually placed directly on the frames in the hive.



step 5

Source of additional feed: commercial or homemade feed.



step 6

Preparing sugar solution.



step 7

Preparing homemade patties.

