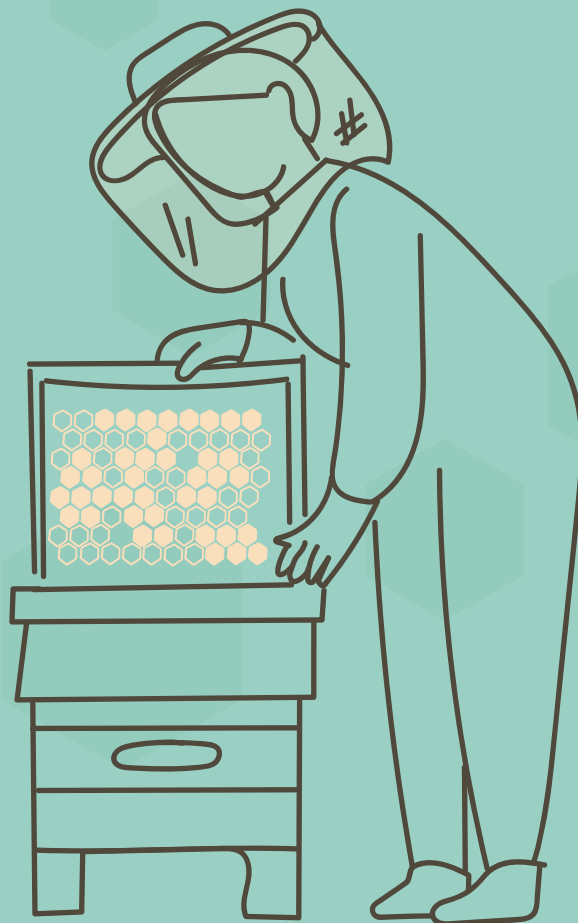


Inspect colonies during suitable weather conditions

Inspection of colonies is an essential activity for monitoring the development and the health of the beehive. Although it could be necessary to visit a colony also with critical weather conditions, inspecting beehives during suitable weather conditions (when honeybees fly) is better to reduce stress both for honeybees and for the beekeeper. During bad weather conditions, honeybees are generally more aggressive and there is also the concrete risk of exposing the brood to low temperatures.



step
1

Observing the flight board is very useful for determining whether the bees are ready to be visited. If you see bee movement with bees entering and exiting, then the families are ready to be visited.



step
2

- Sunny days between 15–25°C: bees are more active and less defensive.
- Minimal wind: strong wind disturbs bees, makes hive opening more difficult, increases aggression and stresses the brood.
- No rain: rain and high humidity make bees nervous and more aggressive.
- Ideal timing: between 10:00–16:00 when most bees are out foraging.



step
3

During summer, you should place the hives in shaded areas to avoid exposing them to scorching sun. High temperatures cause stress to bees because they have to work much harder to maintain a proper temperature inside the hive.

A correct positioning provides shade during spring and summer, whilst in winter is important to provide as much sunlight as possible.



You should avoid or try to limit

- opening hives during:
- **Early morning or late evening:** when all bees are inside and more defensive.
- **Cold or humid days:** there is a risk of cooling the brood and stressing the colony.
- **Intense flowering periods:** when bees are very active and potentially more aggressive.
- **When temperatures are below 10°C,** especially during poor



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