

Wintering Preparations

No 1 The first condition of good wintering is a dry, water-tight hive. Damp is the greatest enemy of bees.

No 2 Next see that there is a laying queen present.

No 3 At the same examination make sure that that the pollen laden combs on either side of the brood nest are on the outside. Plenty of pollen is absolutely necessary, but if the pollen-laden combs are placed in the middle of the brood box, it is likely that the queen may lay beyond this barrier. Re-shuffling of stored combs should not take place after July.

No 4 Estimate the weight of stores. A Colony needs between 30 to 40 pounds of sealed stores to carry it over the winter and into spring.

No 5 Then see that there are plenty of young bees present on all eleven frames.

No 6 Warm way or cold way it does not matter.

No 7 Remove the queen excluder.

No 8 If the hive is light you must feed try to give them the feed as quick as possible.

No 9 Never use honey from a shop it may contain the seeds of Diseases.

No 10 Mild winter bees will use stores, candy can be used to keep the colony topped up.

No 11 Heft the hive every four weeks this will tell you how much the colony is using.

No 12 Fit a mouse guard.

No 13 For peace of mind strap the roof down or put a weight of some kind on the roof.