



BEE LOSS AND REMEDIES

What to do when bees get sick

www.bee-commerce.com

1 (203) 222-2268

Here are some of the main reasons for losing your bees during the winter months.

TRACHAEL MITES

SYMPTOMS: When the bees are active, you will see bees staggering and falling off the landing board. You might also notice deformed wings (K wing) during your inspections in the Fall. This mite continues to breed during the winter and can ultimately kill the hive. If you inspect your hive in the Spring and find that your colony is dead, look for the following tell-tale symptoms of loss due to tracheal mites: there is a moderately large cluster of dead bees (the size of a grapefruit) and there is still quite a bit of honey in the hive.

Note that you can safely re-use the equipment after loss due to tracheal mites. Simply clean out all the dead bees, and pluck as many as you can from the cells. The new colony will clean up what you can't remove.

Remember that tracheal mites can be controlled through use of menthol crystals. See our free information sheets on "Medication" and "Menthol & Oil Mite Control". These instruction sheets are available under "free downloads" at www.bee-commerce.com.

VARROA MITES

SYMPTOMS: You will note that your colony is severely weakened. You might also see mites on the bees or via detection methods. If you inspect your hive in the Spring and find that your colony is dead, look for the following tell-tale symptoms of loss due to Varroa mites: The dead hive will have very few dead bees and a moderate amount of honey. You may see no bees in the hive at all. The bees in a Varroa infested colony will often abscond to get away from the mites.

You can safely re-use the equipment after loss due to Varroa mites. Simply clean out all the dead bees, and pluck as many as you can from the cells. The new colony will clean up what you can't remove.

Remember that Varroa mites can be controlled through use of Apistan®. See our free information sheet on "Medication". This instruction sheet is available under "free downloads" at www.bee-commerce.com.

NO QUEEN

SYMPTOMS: When you inspect your hive in the Spring, you will find no brood or eggs. There may be many dead bees. This is because no new bees were born to replace those that died during the winter

Inspect your bees (look inside) and make certain that the Queen is there. The easiest way is to find eggs. One egg per cell means the Queen is present. Be sure to look for eggs, not larvae. Finding eggs means the Queen was there two days ago. Larvae could be three to eight days old, so finding larvae is no guarantee that you have a queen. This is easy in the Spring, but if you are inspecting late in the season, you will discover that eggs and larvae are few and far between. In that case, the surest method is to actually find the Queen. Be patient, and look carefully.

NO HONEY

SYMPTOMS: When you inspect the colony in the early Spring you find it is dead or it is a very weak hive. During this first quick inspection, look down between the frames and see if you see any honey. Honey is capped with white cappings (tan cappings are the brood). If you do see honey, that's great. If not, and if there are still live bees in the colony, you should begin emergency feeding your bees. A great hivetop feeder is available from www.bee-commerce.com.

This situation can be prevented by generously feeding sugar syrup to your colony in the Fall.

NOSEMA

SYMPTOMS: You will note a great deal of brown staining of the front and top of hive (some staining is normal...a lot of staining is not normal). Nosema is a kind of dysentery that the bees can get. Nosema is the most widespread of all adult bee diseases. Nosema infected colonies yield 30-100% less honey than non-infected colonies. Nosema impairs digestive processes and can cause premature aging and death in worker bees.

Remember that Nosema can be controlled through use of Fumidil-B®. Feed your bees sugar syrup medicated with Fumidil-B in the Spring and again in the Autumn. See our free information sheet on "Medication". This instruction sheet is available under "free downloads" at www.bee-commerce.com.

EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN FOULBROOD

SYMPTOMS: Dead or weakened hive. You will note a very bad smell in the colony. You will also see perforated and sunken cappings over the brood.

NOTE: Foulbrood (particularly American Foulbrood) is a very serious bee disease and is highly contagious to other colonies. If you suspect your colony has foulbrood, please contact an experienced beekeeper or local bee inspector immediately! Do not ignore this condition.

Foulbrood can devastate a hive, but you can easily prevent problems by feeding your honeybees sugar syrup medicated with Terramycin® in the Spring and again in the Autumn. See our free information sheet on "Medication".

For medication supplies and best-quality hivetop feeders, please visit www.bee-commerce.com.

THIS SEASON BE SURE TO TRY OUR NEW PRODUCT: HONEY B HEALTHY™.