

Bee Chronicles

2 December 2025

6 Nov 2925 sunny 73° with no wind. Going through the 7 remaining colonies with a thorough inspection. They all look good. Brood pattern is shrinking to the center of 4 frames. That is good for this time of the year. We need a brood break to reduce the number of mites in the colonies. With no brood larvae there will be no mites laying eggs in the brood cells.

I am still feeding syrup (in hive feeding) and pollen (field feeding). This is to ensure there is adequate stored food in the colony to get through the winter to about 15 February. I think all the colonies have enough stored honey. However, I will keep working all of them and then move full honey combs from the strongest hives onto the weaker ones.

There is no way to guess how long winter will be or how severe the weather. I have purchased my mite treatment for next spring already just to ensure I have it on hand when the queens start brooding again next February.

I will start with "norroa" and "microalgae" next spring simultaneously. The norroa will make the female varroa mites infertile so their eggs don't hatch. The combination of spirulina and chlorella will bolster the nutritional development of the larvae allowing the larvae to grow just a little bit bigger.

The Microalgae together are supposed to provide essential amino acids, lipid fats, polyunsaturated fatty acids, invigorate gut bacteria, antioxidants, and B vitamins. That is all hard to believe but maybe it will help.

The larvae are supposed to develop larger thoraxes. They are supposed to live a little longer (because they are healthier). This results in better immunity to bacteria and hopefully fungi and viruses.

They also appear to be more vigorous (again because they are healthier). This will result in larger colonies populations that are working harder.

With our current colony survival rates anything is worth a try.

Jumping to Apiary Health: One colony died out in the past 2 weeks. It was my largest colony which had wintered over from last year. Hence, the queen was 18 months old. She was brooding well all through October. The colony had nearly been robbed out of honey. No big loss there, it was just moved to my other colonies

I have seen no European hornets all summer long. Other beekeepers report very few. I am not seeing the yellow jacket populations that usually accompany fall weather. I don't seem to see as many bald faced hornet paper nests up in the trees. I have no idea why this is so. Maybe space aliens.

My hive beetle populations have been very low (3-6) but not in all colonies all summer. This could be my better bee keeping (I doubt that). Probably because I have no neighbors with honey bees. If no neighbors breeding beetles the don't invade me.