

Hints For Beginners

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In this district as a rule, the first pollen comes in by or before April 1st. Others can gauge their conditions by the advent of this stimulus for the hive. If many colonies of bees are to be set out, say 40 or more, it is well not to put out more than fifteen or twenty at a time. Set out the previous night or very early in the morning of a favorable day. By so doing there is less excitement, no danger at all of swarming out and it avoids weak colonies becoming still more depopulated by having the bees from the weaker join the stronger stocks in their flight. Ventilate the cellar thoroughly the night they are to be set out or if they are to be put out the following day. This quiets the bees and they are likely to fly out more quietly. It is also well to adjust entrances as soon as the bees are placed in the yard and if there is too much or too little room regulate later. Light colonies should be marked when taking out and given combs of honey if possible the very first chance or if they are strong in bees, fed. If the bottom boards are loose, as they always should be, as soon as the bees settle down after flying, the brood chamber should be raised and if any dead bees cannot readily be scraped off, the bottom board should be changed a clean board being put in its place. The condition of the colony can generally be pretty well gauged from the under side of the combs and unless the bees have too much room requiring the removal of combs and a division board or follower, or they are short of stores, requiring feeding, it is best to allow

the sealed quilt to remain untouched on the combs. This is especially true with the cheap wood covers so generally in use. An ordinary stock of bees should now have 15 to 20 lbs of honey in reserve, many a stock does not build up readily in spring because it has not plenty of honey; eggs are deposited by the queen which owing to checks in the natural flow of honey and insufficient stores never become mature bees. This providing of food should be seen to in the fall, but if it has been neglected it should be done the first favorable weather. Weak colonies I would not feed syrup or liquid honey if I could give them combs of honey from strong colonies. Rather feed the strong colonies for they can take up, store and ripen the syrup better, and with them there is less danger of robbing. There are many feeders, I know of no better spring feeder than the Doolittle division board feeder. You can make it by taking an ordinary frame, nail on each side of it a $\frac{3}{8}$ inch thick board coming to within a half inch of the top bar. This can be made water tight by pouring into it melted paraffine or wax, giving the wood inside a coating of the material used, this makes it water tight and prevents the syrup from soaking into the wood. In the top bar bore a $\frac{3}{8}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ inch hole near one end of the top bar; by means of a small funnel the syrup can from the top be poured into the feeder. The frame can be hung in one side of the hive and filled with warm syrup. This feeder has the advantage of cheapness, it can readily be filled without disturbing the bees or allowing much warm air to escape from the brood chamber. Now for the syrup, take granulated sugar and enough "coffee A" sugar (brown) to flavor it and mix two parts sugar to one of water by measure have the water boiling and stir as the sugar is poured into the water to prevent