

FEEDING BEES.

I seldom or never feed the bees except they lack stores to carry them through the winter. In that case I dissolve standard granulated sugar, in the proportion of five pounds of sugar to one quart of water, bring it to a boil, and it is ready for use.

WINTER QUARTERS.

For winter the bees are placed in a box with a space of two inches round about the hive, which space is filled with wheat chaff. For convenience the box is hooked together at two opposite corners, while the other two corners are nailed. I place a cloth and mat on the top.

SPRING TREATMENT.

In wet seasons I just let them wait for dry weather. Of course, I would feed them if they ran short of stores. I never feed anything but honey in spring or summer, and so, during the honey season, have nothing but pure honey in the hives. I always avoid all glucose and grape sugar for bee feed. I have had no experience in the foreign markets for honey, but doubtless the clover and linden honey would bring the highest price.

CALIFORNIA HONEY.

From Canada, at present, the foreign trade is carried on in a small and private way. Hundreds of tons of honey are purchased annually in California for the English market, at from five to eight cents per pound, the cost of carriage not being more than one cent per pound. California honey is proverbial for its superior quality when left with the bees till ripe or partly capped.

ADULTERATION—UNRIPE HONEY.

I do not think adulteration is practised to any extent in this country, although I have met with some adulterations here. The practice of extracting thin or unripe honey should be discouraged, especially in view of our seeking a foreign market for our surplus. The best article is needed to secure the best prices.

INSECTS INJURIOUS TO BEES—GRANULATED HONEY.

I know of no insects in Ontario injurious to bees, but they are numerous in the Southern States. All pure honey will granulate (or candy) sooner or later. By placing the honey jar or tin in water, and applying a gentle heat slowly, the honey can be liquified at any time without the least injury to its flavour.

DISEASES OF BEES.

Of diseases, bees are subject to what is known as foul brood, and to dysentery. The former is infectious and fatal, whole apiaries being sometimes lost by it. Dysentery, although causing great mortality among bees annually, is not, properly speaking, a disease, but the result of unfavourable conditions. If these be removed dysentery will disappear with them. To secure the best results apiaries should be located at least five miles apart.

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