

crops are also very valuable honey-producing plants. The following list includes a number of the more important honey and pollen-producing plants found in Manitoba.

Wild plum, cherry, dandelion, red osier dogwood, willows, poplars, ash, sugar maple, hawthorn, strawberry, anemone, basswood, mustard, raspberry, thistles, clovers, gum plants, fire wood, golden rod, asters, etc.

Fall Care and Wintering

It has been said that the success of wintering depends upon the summer care and that the success of the honey crop depends largely upon the wintering and spring care. This is very true because it should be the aim of the beekeeper to keep his colonies strong at all times.

In preparing the bees for winter, it is well to see that the hives have all good queens, ones that will lay eggs well on in the fall, because it is necessary for successful wintering to have the hives well filled with young bees. The bees that have worked one summer will not live over until the next. Be sure that all hives have laying queens, ones that are not more than three years old, as old queens often die during the winter months, leaving the colony queenless in the spring and consequently the colony will not increase but gradually dwindle away. The best time to get rid of old queens is in July.

If brood rearing is continued until the end of September or middle of October there will be a good supply of young bees and the hive should come out of the winter quarters in good condition. It is preferable to have six, seven or more frames covered with bees and about four or five frames of sealed honey in the hive for winter. This will be about twenty pounds of food for winter, which is a liberal supply. The average amount used per colony in Manitoba is about eleven pounds.

Outdoor Wintering

In some parts of the West bees are wintered outdoors, but this is not a general practice and is considered by the majority of beekeepers to be risky. If the bees are to be kept in a basement, a chamber should be boarded off by a partition made of boards. This prevents the bees from being disturbed during the winter and also helps to keep an even temperature, which is so necessary for successful wintering.

Ideal winter conditions are as follows: A temperature between 35° to 45° F. Proper ventilation.

The cellar or basement should be dry, as moisture in the hive during the winter is very harmful. It is desirable that a uniform temperature be maintained in the cellar during the winter months. If the temperature rises, the bees

will become restless and cold air should be admitted at night by opening the ventilator. Bees can be wintered in a basement or cellar under the dwelling house with good success.

If a person does not have a good basement or cellar, it has been found that bees can be wintered successfully in a well made outside root cellar, having proper ventilation and being dry.

When to Put Them in the Cellar

The bees can be put away for the winter about the middle of November, or on the approach of severe weather. A reliable thermometer should be kept in the bee cellar so that the exact temperature can be noted at any time.

Place the hives on shelves about one foot from the floor. The front entrance is left wide open during the winter and if the cellar is rather warm it is well to remove the hive covers. The bees should be kept as quiet as possible during the winter. Have the rear of the hives slightly higher than the entrance.

Robbing

Robbing is started by carelessness on the part of the beekeeper in opening hives or leaving honey exposed, or by feeding during the warm part of the day, either in the spring or fall, when flowers are scarce. To prevent robbing, contract the entrance of the hive by means of a block of wood. Prevention, however, is vastly better than cure. Do not open hives when there is no honey coming in, unless it is necessary and be careful not to leave honey or sugar exposed. Bees are not disposed to rob during the summer when they are able to gather from the flowers. During the spring and fall, when the bees are not so busy, there is danger of bees robbing, so care should be taken to prevent this.

Study the Habits of the Bees

It is important that a person keeping bees should study their habits, as success depends largely upon a thorough knowledge of the condition of the hive. It is a mistake to suppose that the chief characteristic of a bee is to sting, because by proper care and handling the chance of being stung is very small. Examine the hives only during the warm part of the day when the bees are busy. Wear light colored clothing, as bees do not like black; and when looking at the combs, etc., be careful to avoid rapid or jerking movements.

To be Continued in July issue



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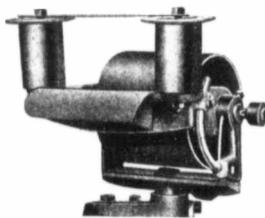


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