

IPM PRACTICES FOR HOBBY APIARIES



February-Early
March

- Place 1-2 drone cell frames at the edge of brood nest. Remove frames 15-22 days after eggs are laid. Freeze or feed to chickens.
- Replace old, dark, and messed-up comb.

Early March -
Late June

- Monitor varroa levels.
- Force a brood break or let bees swarm.

April

- Consider using a screened bottom board.
- Requeen with VSH or varroa tolerant queen.

May

- Let them "bee" to maximize honey production unless varroa issues warrant intervention.



Early May-
August

- Cage queen to force a brood break or let bees swarm.
- Monitor varroa levels - consider treating with oxalic acid when no brood is present.

August -
October

- After honey supers have been pulled, perform mite checks every three weeks (except while treating).

Strategy courtesy of Nancy Ruppert - 2022



TIPS

- Check mite levels at least 4X/year
- Break brood cycle 2X/year
- Encourage other beekeepers to practice IPM
- Share/exchange hardy stock with local beekeepers

