

# Preparing for winter

Pest and disease check  
Cleaning  
Nutrition  
New season preparation





# Pest and disease check

Time for the 2<sup>nd</sup> [compulsory brood check](#) – 4 month later than the 1st one

Look for disease :

- [AFB](#) (peppery/shotgun brood pattern – sunken/discolored brood cell – partially opened cell) : do a rope test or pregnancy-like test if needed. Report to DPI within 24h. Close the hive at night and kill the bees. Dispose properly of the hive ([irradiation](#) – burn – buried).





# Pest and disease check

- [EFB](#) (dead twisted larvae yellow to orange color). Report to DPI





# Pest and disease check

- Chalkbrood (mummies like larvae white or black in brood cells or at the entrance of the hive). Report to DPI





# Pest and disease check

Look for pests :

- Small hive beetle
- Wax moth
- Varroa mite





# Pest and disease check

Look for pests :

- Varroa mite ([Sugar shake month in April](#))

Report immediately if found:





# Cleaning

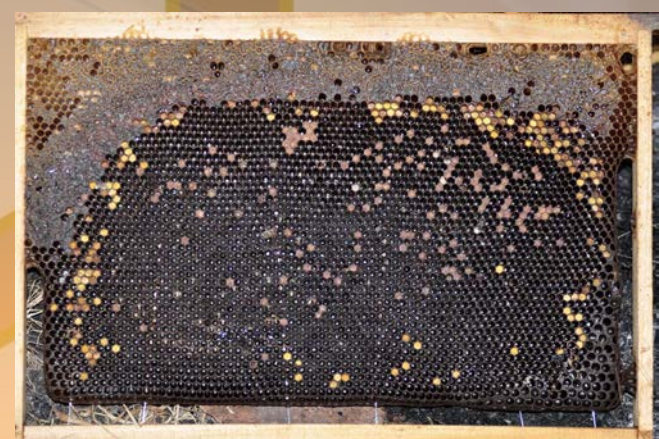
## Frame change:

Remove old frame, too dark or too twisted

Old brood frame make smaller bees and decrease their life expectancy

Old brood frame accumulate pesticides, spores (AFB and others).

You should change 2-4 frames each year.



## Bridge comb

Clean between frame with the hive tool

## Bottom board

Remove debris if presents, check for pest or signs of disease

Clean the queen excluder





# Reducing

Check the bee population and brood quantity

Bee population will decline during winter: don't leave empty space the bees can't patrol and warm.

You might need to combine two weak hives. Only if they are pest and disease free!

It involves killing one queen (the oldest or the weakest one) and combine the two brood boxes with newspaper in between the boxes.





# Nutrition

Check the honey and pollen stores

In Sydney 2 full frames of honey are usually enough for winter as bees can forage almost everyday.

They should also have a reasonable store of pollen.

If they don't have enough food, feed with 2 to 1 sugar syrup that will be stored by the bees. This is normally not necessary in Sydney.

Note that it will adulterate the honey if it is store in a super and extrated.



# Be prepared!

Winter is the time to reflect on the last year and try to improve beekeeping skills.

Prepare for spring :

- Assemble new frames
- Assemble new boxes
- Do some repairs
- Be prepared for swarming season
- Reserve or pre-order new queen(s)

It is important to do all the necessary steps to have a good and healthy population in spring, ready to be productive while minimizing the risk of swarming.

Nutrition and space in the colony are essential.

Keep good records



Thank you



Merci