



## Southampton & District Beekeepers Association

[www.southamptonbeekeepers.co.uk](http://www.southamptonbeekeepers.co.uk)

### Things to do and see

Author Andy Willis - September 2008 Supplementary

### Bad weather causing bees to starve

- Check stores of food in your hives now, as soon as you can. Bees are dying of starvation throughout the country. I have heard a report today (2nd September) of a strong colony that has eaten 3 supers of honey in the last 4 weeks and is now starving and being fed sugar syrup just to keep it alive.
- I have also had an ill colony (mystery illness that the bee unit and bee inspector cannot identify) that has also starved and died in the last 2 weeks. There were sufficient stores two weeks ago in the brood box but now there are only dead bees in the hive (no robbing has taken place). You have been warned!
- The main problem seems to be no nectar coming in combined with high numbers of both young and adult bees. The queens have not reduced laying and there is no stores in the brood box, giving room for the queen to continue laying at a higher than normal rate.
- If your bees get through this autumn expect higher than average losses this winter due to poor diet of the winter bees now being produced.
- The only exception to all of this is the bees on the heather. These have been struggling to bring in a surplus of honey for the beekeepers but on the plus side the brood boxes are well provisioned right now enabling the brood to be fed on a good rich diet.

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