

Spring Inspection

1. Are there signs of Dysentery at the hive entrance or on frames, if so monitor at next visit to see if it is fermenting stores, confinement or disease.
2. How many frames are occupied with brood?
3. Presence of eggs and larvae – these indicate that the queen is laying
4. Sealed Brood: are the slabs of brood even, flat capped, not too many gaps? Any dark, sunken and perforated cappings should be reported to the Bee Inspector.
5. Is there pollen in the ring of cells surrounding the brood.
6. Is there a good store of honey on the outer combs? If not the colony requires feeding.
7. Find the queen and mark her and if you want to, clip her wings. If you do not find the queen you can find her on the next inspection as the presence of eggs proves the queen is there.
8. Are there large accumulations of dead bees on the floor? If so the brood chamber should be lifted off and placed on an empty super/ brood chamber and the bees scraped off the floor with a hive tool away from the hive, then replace brood chamber on floor.
9. Are there drone cells or drones.
10. Are there one or two combs available for the queen to lay in.
11. Is this colony less advanced than others in the apiary? If so it may be diseased and require a sample to be sent for analysis.
12. Excess burr comb should be removed with a hive tool and placed in a container.
13. Check Varroa drop, more than two per day may require treatment.
14. Put on queen excluder and first super on those colonies with more than five frames of brood.