

Barry's Bee Supplemental Feed Mixture

Given, beekeepers steal honey from the bees for personal use, then we need to be more diligent in maintaining the colony's general health and wellness. Supplemental feeding with vitamins and minerals will definitely help in this objective. Normally we feed 1:1 sugar syrup during the spring and summer to emulate the sugar content of natural nectar of the season.

When the weather becomes cool during September we then switch to 2:1 sugar syrup so the bees do not have as much work to evaporate excess water when converting to honey for their winter food supply. The oil of lemongrass makes the sugar syrup very appetizing to the honey bee. The Thymol acts as a fungicide preventing mildew growth and spoilage. The 2ml (1 gram) per 4 litres also addresses Nosema Apis and Ceranae which are fungal infections of the honey bee's gut and are well dispersed over the south islands.

Four Litre Mix

Ingredients

Sugar - 2 litres (8 cups) for 1:1 mixture, 2.6 litres (10 1/2 cups) for 2:1 mixture

Water - ~2 litres (8 cups) for 1:1 mixture, ~ 1.5 litres (6 cups) for 2:1 mixture

Lecithin - 0.5 ml (1/8 teaspoon)

Vitamin mixture - 1 ml (1/4 teaspoon)

Oil of Lemongrass - 0.1 ml (2 drops)

Thymol (50% solution) - 0.5 ml (1 eye dropper about 3/4 full) for mildew treatment, 2 ml (4 eye droppers about 3/4 full) for Nosema treatment, 4 ml (8 eye droppers about 3/4 full) for chalk-brood treatment

Instructions

1. In four-litre bucket put sugar and fill with hot tap water until 3/4 full - stir until dissolved then let cool
2. In blender:
 - a. Put 1/2 litre of cold tap water - add Oil of Lemongrass , then blend
 - b. Add vitamins and lecithin, then blend again
3. Stir this combined mixture into the 4 litre container of cooled sugar syrup
4. Top up with cold water if needed
5. Then add Thymol solution gently and stir gently by hand

For supplies:

For the South Islands area, please contact Barry Denluck by email: Barry@BarrysBees.ca

2018 prices:

Peppermint Oil (30 ml)	\$	10.00
Oil of lemon grass (30 ml)	\$	10.00
Thymol in ethyl alcohol (15 grams in 30 ml)	\$	10.00
Lecithin (10 grams)	\$	2.50
Multi Vitamin (25 grams)	\$	7.50

More beekeeping information can be found at BarrysBees.ca.