

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. When the weather becomes cool during September we would switch to 2:1 sugar syrup so the bees do not have as much work to convert it 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 1ml (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 liquid - 1 ml (2 eye droppers about 3/4 full), 2 ml for *Nosema* treatment, 4 ml for chalkbrood 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 lecithin, then blend
 - b. Add vitamins, then blend again
 - c. Add Oil of Lemongrass, then blend
3. Then add Thymol liquid gently and stir gently by hand
4. Stir this combined mixture into the 4 liter container of cooled sugar syrup
5. Top up with cold water if needed

For supplies:

Comox Valley area, please contact Jennifer Dilfer by email: jenn.dilfer@hotmail.com

For the Greater Victoria area, please contact Barry Denluck by email: Barry@BarrysBees.ca

2016 prices:

Peppermint Oil	\$	10.00
Oil of lemon grass	\$	10.00
Thymol in ethyl alcohol (15 grams)	\$	10.00
Lecithin (10 grams)	\$	2.50
Multi Vitamin (25 grams)	\$	5.00

More beekeeping information can be found at BarrysBees.ca.