

MEL'S CALENDAR: A MIDWESTERN BEEKEEPER'S ANNUAL GUIDE TO ON-THE-SPOT QUEEN REARING AND NUC MANAGEMENT FOR CALIFORNIA ALMOND POLLINATION AND HONEY PRODUCTION

Timed According to Seasonal Conditions on the 43rd Parallel of Michigan

April	May	June	July	August	September
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unwrap hive Clean bottom board Install bottom super 	<p>Almond Pollination & Honey Production</p> <p>May 5: Make 6-brood frame split for future almond pollination and honey production. Initiate Q cell using I.M.N. system</p> <p>May 16: Virgin emerges</p>	<p>Almond Pollination & Honey Production</p> <p>June 1: Virgin mated</p> <p>June 5: When Q is laying in bottom box, place excluder between 1 and 2 and install super 3. Varroa mite breeding cycle interrupted</p>	<p>Almond Pollination & Honey Production</p> <p>July 5: Hive now has 6-8 frames brood. Make 3-4 (2-brood-frame) splits and initiate Q cells using I.M.N. system</p> <p>July 16: Virgins emerge in nucs</p>	<p>Almond Pollination & Honey Production</p> <p>Aug 1: Mated Q's start laying and start build up of 3 brood cycles, or 63 days. Varroa mite breeding cycle interrupted again.</p>	<p>Almond Pollination & Honey Production</p> <p>Evaluate progress of nucs</p>
	<p>Future Replacement Bees</p> <p>May 5: Make 2-brood-frame split w/ old Q for future replacement bees</p>	<p>Future Replacement Bees</p> <p>Nuc building up, evaluate progress</p>	<p>Future Replacement Bees</p> <p>July 5: Nuc now has 6-8 frames brood. Make 3-4 (2-brood-frame) splits and initiate Q cells using I.M.N. system</p> <p>July 16: Virgins emerge in nucs</p>	<p>Future Replacement Bees</p> <p>Aug 1: Mated Q's start laying and start build up of 3 brood cycles, or 63 days. Varroa mite breeding cycle interrupted again.</p>	<p>Future Replacement Bees</p> <p>Evaluate progress of nucs</p>
October	November	December	January	February	March
<p>Almond Pollination & Honey Production</p> <p>Oct 1: Move nucs to California to build up for almond pollination</p>	<p>Almond Pollination & Honey Production</p> <p>Nov 1-15: Put candy boards on nucs for extra feed during build up</p>	<p>Almond Pollination & Honey Production</p> <p>Nucs building up in California for almond pollination</p>	<p>Almond Pollination & Honey Production</p> <p>Nucs have grown into full-strength hives ready for almond pollination</p>	<p>Almond Pollination & Honey Production</p> <p>CALIFORNIA ALMOND POLLINATION IN PROGRESS</p>	<p>Almond Pollination & Honey Production</p> <p>When California almond pollination is finished, you can split these hives and break the Varroa mite breeding cycle again or you can move them to South Dakota for honey production</p>
<p>Future Replacement Bees</p> <p>Oct 1: Feed for extra winter stores</p>	<p>Future Replacement Bees</p> <p>Nov 1-15: Put candy boards on nucs and then wrap to over winter</p>	<p>Future Replacement Bees</p> <p>Nucs over wintering</p>	<p>Future Replacement Bees</p> <p>Nucs still over wintering and starting to raise brood</p>	<p>Future Replacement Bees</p> <p>Nucs still over wintering and gaining momentum with brood</p>	<p>Future Replacement Bees</p> <p>Nucs growing into full-strength hives which will be ready to split in May. Prepare equipment for April unwrapping.</p>