

SUGAR BRICKS

"Convenient in every way"

A year-round feeding strategy that reduces starvation and increases overwinter success.

Eliminates the mess of syrup



3 ½ lbs of feed per brick (approx. 6" x 6" x 2")

Set of 12 bricks: \$89 (Delivered in U.S.)

***Send checks payable to:* Mel Disselkoen
Apiaries, 1941 Alba, Wyoming, MI 49509**

www.mdasplitter.com

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Sugar Bricks: The Latest Innovation in Feeding

Introduction

Sugar bricks are quickly becoming the feed of choice for bees. The ingredients in the bricks are the same as has been used in the time-tested candy boards. The difference is in how they are used on the hive and in the convenience of adding or removing feed as needed. My observation of the bees working the sugar bricks is one of contentment, as G. M. Doolittle said, when there is "millions of honey at our house", the bees are contented.

I decided to supply sugar bricks as a convenient, reliable, and always available feed to beekeepers, particularly in the northern climates. Sugar bricks are inconvenient to make as you have to heat the sugar to 242F without scorching and then pour into molds at the right temperature. The pioneering survivalist can make their own but you can save yourself a month of Sundays by purchasing them directly. Each sugar brick weighs 3.50 pounds and you can get a box of 12 for \$89 which comes to about 43 pounds of feed, shipped USPS Priority mail anywhere in the USA. Two bricks or \$15 to save a colony from starvation is very cost effective and a case can be shared with friends.

Overwintering

Sugar bricks can be placed right above the winter cluster which enables colonies to have instant and constant access to feed throughout the winter. Many a hive has survived the harshest of winters because they had sugar bricks on board and without which they would have starved. This is significant when you consider that the Apiary Inspectors of America reported that starvation was the major cause of winter losses in 2009-2010. Sugar bricks can be given gently to a colony at any time during the winter without harming the cluster because

bees heat the cluster and not the inside of the hive. This is similar to bee trees when heat escapes with good ventilation. I gently check my colonies occasionally during the winter to make sure there is enough feed.

Year-round feeding strategy

I use sugar bricks year round for my starts as they are so incredibly convenient to use, handle, and store. Sugar bricks don't drip which reduces robbing behavior in the apiary and automatically eliminates the mess of making sugar syrup. Any unused brick will be used to produce bees in the spring. I do use wet sugar for feed from time to time in the spring and summer but only when I don't have sugar bricks made ahead of time.

Applications

When using sugar bricks there is a 3" shell or shallow empty super placed on top of the bees and frames. A ½ " hole is drilled in this shell for ventilation and exit, the sugar bricks can be placed directly above the cluster without an excluder. If you use an excluder it should be shimmed ¼ " to maintain the bee space so that the bees can pass between the top bars and the excluder. An excluder delays and discourages the building of comb in this empty area if you don't check in time (see the picture examples).

