



THE BEEKEEPER'S CALENDAR

Presented by Alison Galati

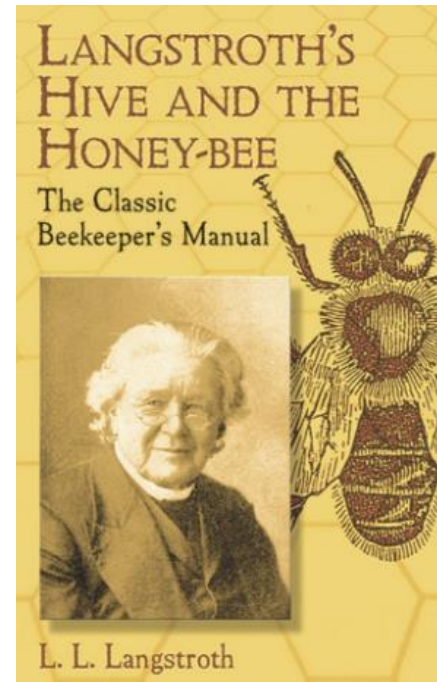
12 months of Hive Management

- Know what to do – and when
- Plan time to maintain your equipment
- Be prepared for “surprises”
- Manage your bees to be successful



January/February

- Read books
- Attend classes
- Repair or replace equipment
- If your bees have wintered-over, check their food levels regularly, and add fondant and pollen patties
- Feb: If needed, order bee packages or nucs for delivery in April - May



March

- On warm days – quick check of the hive
 - Be quick – don't chill the hive.
- Ensure they have food – add fondant & pollen patties
 - Pollen encourages brood laying
 - Fondant is for energy





April

- Remove winter packing/wrapping
- Feed new or weak colonies sugar syrup (1:1) with medication (fumagillin)
- Install entrance reducer

May

- Watch for:
 - Overcrowding
 - Uneven brood patterns
 - Look for swarm cells
- Clean the entire hive right down to the bottom board – remove any dead bees
- For fast growing colonies, reverse hive bodies
- Apply mite treatment
- Re-queen if necessary





June

- Swarm prevention:
 - Reverse hive bodies
 - Add a super to the top, or in between to avoid over crowding.
 - Start a new colony (a split). This is an artificial swarm.
- Hives that swarm:
 - Lose honey crops
 - May lose the queen and possibly the whole colony
- Remove mite treatment



July

- Add honey supers AHEAD of the honey flow
- Check for the queen
- Check for disease
- Move frames with lots of drone comb to the outside (eventually replace/melt down)



August

- Pull full honey supers
- Add honey supers

September

- It's harvest time
- Extract honey and enjoy!
- Share – leave enough for your bees for the winter.
- Treat for Varroa (Apiguard) and Nosema (fumagillin)



October

- Determine if your bees have enough honey for the winter
 - Lift the hive from the rear –70-90 lbs. for winter
 - Move frames with honey to the center of the top brood box
- Remove mite treatments





November/December

- Protect hives from the winter winds
 - Hay bales
 - Wraps
 - Tarp paper
- Keep hive entrances clear from snow
- Ensure proper ventilation, to avoid condensation build-up
- Get a hot chocolate and pick out your January reading!

Questions?