

2022 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #41a

It is getting colder! This article covers some information on what is happening in your hives during the fall season.

Mite treatments are now in the follow up stage. I am a firm believer in the statement "Nothing is perfect!" Mite treatment products may lead one to think because a hive was treated, it is okay! I have found it hard to advise anyone on the perfect product to kill mites. There is in my opinion more to mite control than buying a product, follow the label, and relax thinking the mite issue has been taken care of! Good hive management is critical during the bee season from spring thru fall. Most important is to take mite samples often and especially after any treatment period.

Many beekeepers can attest to finding hives that failed after doing everything they were advised to do! I remember a beekeeping friend teaching at a well recognized university making the statement "I could sell bottles of grape juice to beekeepers if it was labeled to kill mites!"

I have lived with mites for over 30 years and still have not found a sure fire method to eliminate them in my hives. I am not in a position to advise any product sold. Even queens are hyped as survivor queen stock! There is some good work being done on mite resistant lines but we listen to the hype. The chance to prevent mite damage to the bees in our hives certainly occurred during the time of year when mite populations were low! As bee populations in hives decline the mite population has exploded to do great harm to a hive of bees. I hope the line charts in this article help show this. By the way, they are not new. They were taken from my beekeeping cd first published in 2001.