

## 2023 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #39a

Colder weather and rain have arrived in Raleigh today after an 80 degree day yesterday. My bees have been returning to hives with quite a bit of goldenrod pollen. All hives are still raising brood and bee populations are the best I have seen in years. Mite counts are low but SHB are still around and my beetle traps are working. I am sure that feeding during summer to fall and re-queening my hives solved many of past years problems. One other point on queens -- buy stock from breeders that have a good reputation. Ask other beekeepers about their survival rates and where they got their queens.

Each hive has a super of honey reserves and brood in bottom and top brood chambers. I have visited some of my first year beekeepers who have had typical hive losses. I am thinking that the major problem is failure to check hives every two weeks. Looking at a hive is quite different than pulling frames to check for brood and any other problems a hive may be having. Another problem I see is the feeling by some that the bees don't need to be fed until fall. Queens has also been a problem.

I am concerned that new beekeepers taking a bee class in spring are getting information to get started but little is taught about managing a colony thru summer and late fall. Queens that were delivered with package bees this year seem to be a real problem as well as nuc's with overwintered queens. I am coming to the conclusion that queens -- early raised queens that come in packages and nucs with year old queens should be re-queened while queens are still available in mid-summer -- especially if a hive/queen shows any kind of population decrease by say August 1. It is hard to find queens for sale now. Christmas is only 10 weeks away! A hive population going into winter will continue to fall until new bees are added when queens begin laying maybe as early as late December.