October To Do List

Feeding and Food Stores Check weight and stores:

Ensure your colonies have at least about 7/8 frames for single deep wintering or about 14/16 deep frames for double deep wintering of capped honey reserves.



Feed 2:1 syrup: If stores are low, feed a heavy sugar syrup mix of 2 parts refined white sugar to 1 part water immediately; do not use brown sugar.

Use internal feeders: Avoid entrance feeders now to prevent robbing from other hives or yellowjackets.

Hive Configuration Remove late supers:

Take off any remaining honey supers and all queen excluders so the queen isn't left below or separated from feed.

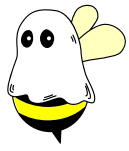
Downsize the hive: Remove empty frames or unused space to help the bees efficiently heat the cluster over winter.

Restrict entrances: Reduce the main hive entrance and inner cover notches to protect the weak colony and conserve heat.

Pest and Weather Protection Install mouse guards:

Put mouse guards on hive entrances before field mice look for a warm winter nesting spot.

Check ventilation: Ensure top ventilation allows moisture to escape without letting in cold drafts.



Start obtaining windbreak and insulation items.

Purchase large animal deterrents: Obtain tie-downs, straps or large bricks to help combat animals and wind.