

3 Alternative Autumn & Winter Feed solutions.

Autumn 50/50 water/sugar solution.

This 7 litre upturned lidded plastic drum has 15 x 4mm holes drilled below the lip. A spirit level is essential to prevent the liquid in the lip overflowing at the lowest edge. After a feeding frenzy, these bees [+ some wasps] emptied this 7 litre container in several days in mid October!

I installed this 7 litre communal feeder on 14th October and even with daytime temperature of 12 C this attracted these bees. They are now on the third 7 litre feeder a month later and the bees are still actively taking this 50/50 sugar water solution in the same frantic numbers, with no apparent robbing taking place.



Autumn & Winter Dry Sugar Feed

[at colder temperatures but when the bees are still active.]

A queen excluder is placed on top of the brood box to give a bee space below.

A sheet of newspaper covers $\frac{3}{4}$ of it with an eke on top.

The 15 lb of dry sugar is placed on top of the paper and the surface of the sugar is dampened to stop the house bees carrying it all outside the hive entrance!!

These few bees found this dampened sugar feed in 5 minutes, see picture below:



Winter sugar paste feed [3 parts sugar to 1part of honey].



The above is mixed to a paste consistency and placed in a Ziploc plastic bag over a queen excluder above the brood box. 5 slits are cut with a sharp blade to allow the bees access to the mixture.

Click on: http://www.edinburghbeekeepers.org.uk/downloads/Ziploc_Sugar_Honey.pdf for full details.

John Farrow Oct. 2016