

Christina McCarthy

SPRING CLEANING for Beekeeping

Feb. 3, 2020

1. Hive

- a. Remove:
 - i. Mouse guards
 - ii. Insulation/wraps
 - iii. Windbreaks
- b. Clean:
 - i. Inner covers
 - ii. Top bars
 - iii. Bottom boards
 - iv. Box walls
 - v. Grooves
- c. Replace:
 - i. Damaged frames-rot/breaking
 - ii. Boxes beyond repair

2. Prepare Components

- a. Frames—Throw out black or rotted frames
- b. Supers—ensure they are clean and ready to use. If using frame feeders, put them in.
- c. If planning to catch a swarm, screw bottom board to box and fill with frames.

3. Prepare Personal gear and tools

- a. Protective Gear:
 - i. Wash suit-gentle cycle or in 5 gallon bucket
 - ii. Check gloves, veils, suits for tears or broken zippers/holes
- b. Smokers:
 - i. Scrape out tar and creosote from inside smoker
 - ii. Ensure bellows have no holes and are working
- c. Tools:
 - i. Scrape/clean Hive tool
 - ii. Sharpen hive tool
 - iii. Use .05% bleach solution for cleaning plastic equipment

4. New equipment

- a. Do an inventory
 - i. Purchase needed items—Feeders, frames, pollen patties, mite treatments
- b. New hives
 - i. Assemble
 - ii. Paint—Outside only with flat latex