



# Beginners' Course 2025

## Session 4 **Wintering and Spring build up**

# Agenda

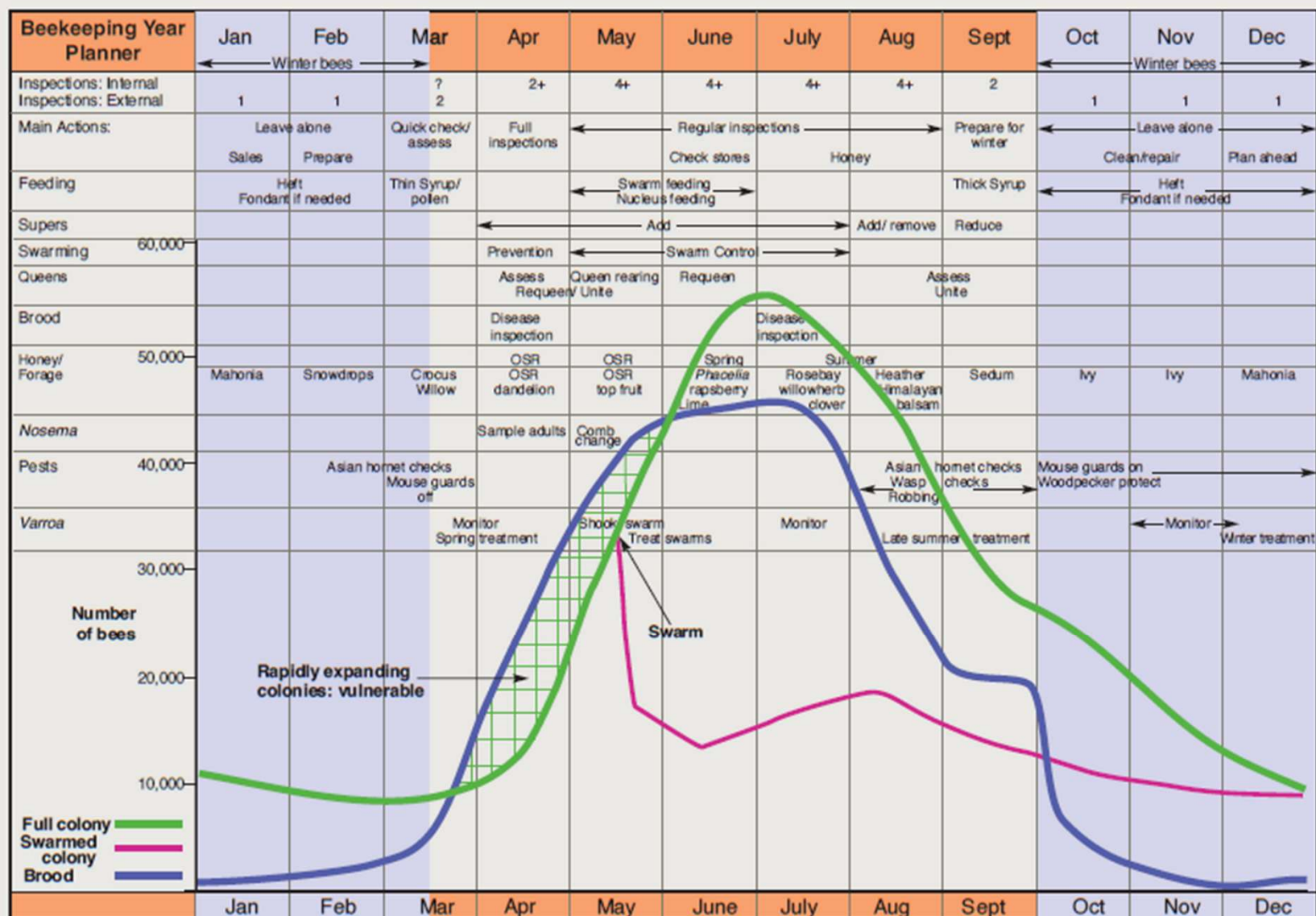
Item	Description	Duration
1	Autumn and Winter	45 mins
2	<b>Tea/coffee Break</b>	15 mins
3	Spring and Summer	45 mins
4	Q&A	10 mins

# Housekeeping (For us not the Bees!)



# Wintering and Spring Build Up





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Egg

1.5mm long

weight

0.12 – 0.22mg



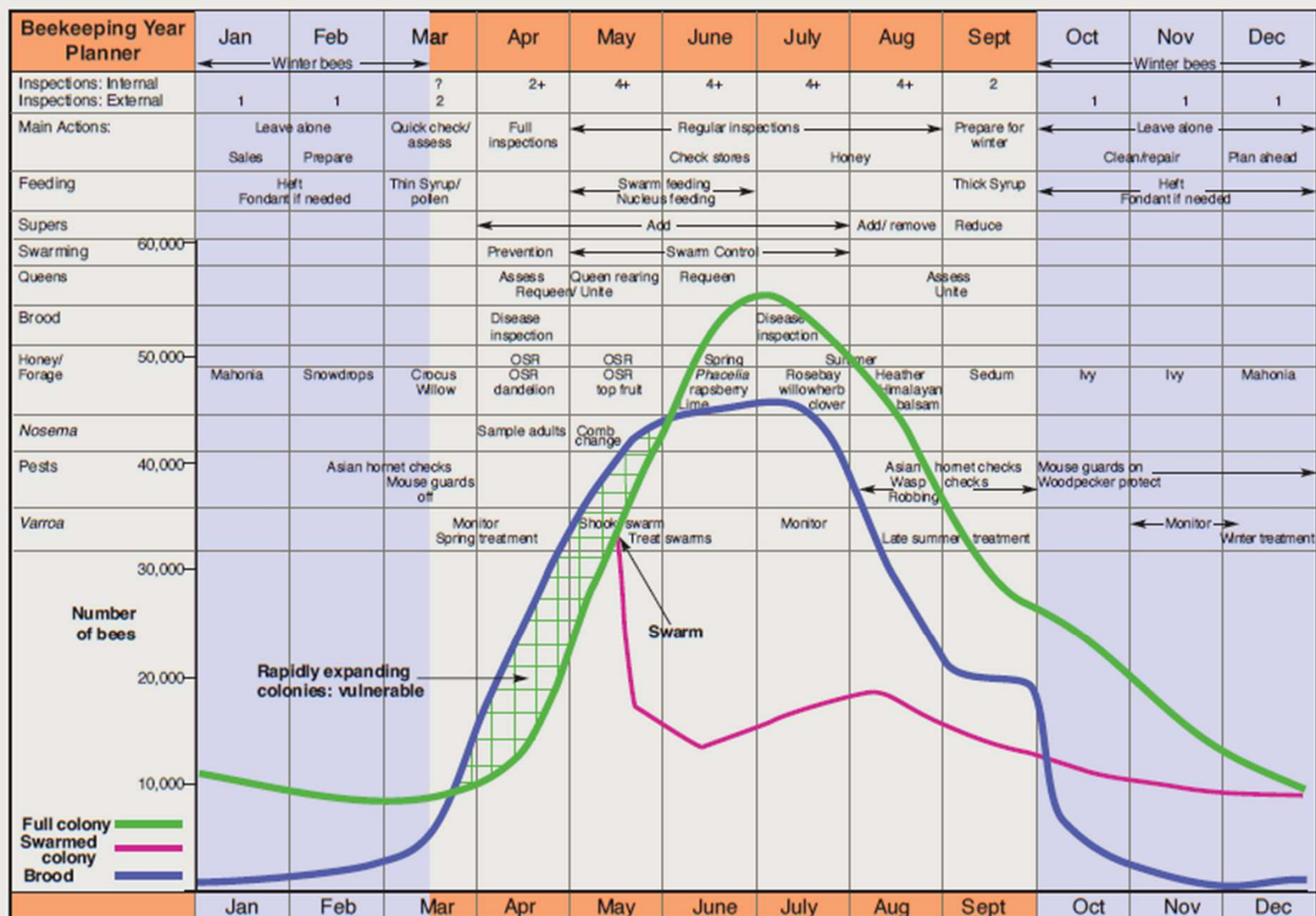
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	Typical weight	at capping	weight at emergence	on day
Worker larva		140mg	90 – 100mg	21
Queen larva		250mg	200mg	16
Drone larva		346mg	290mg	24

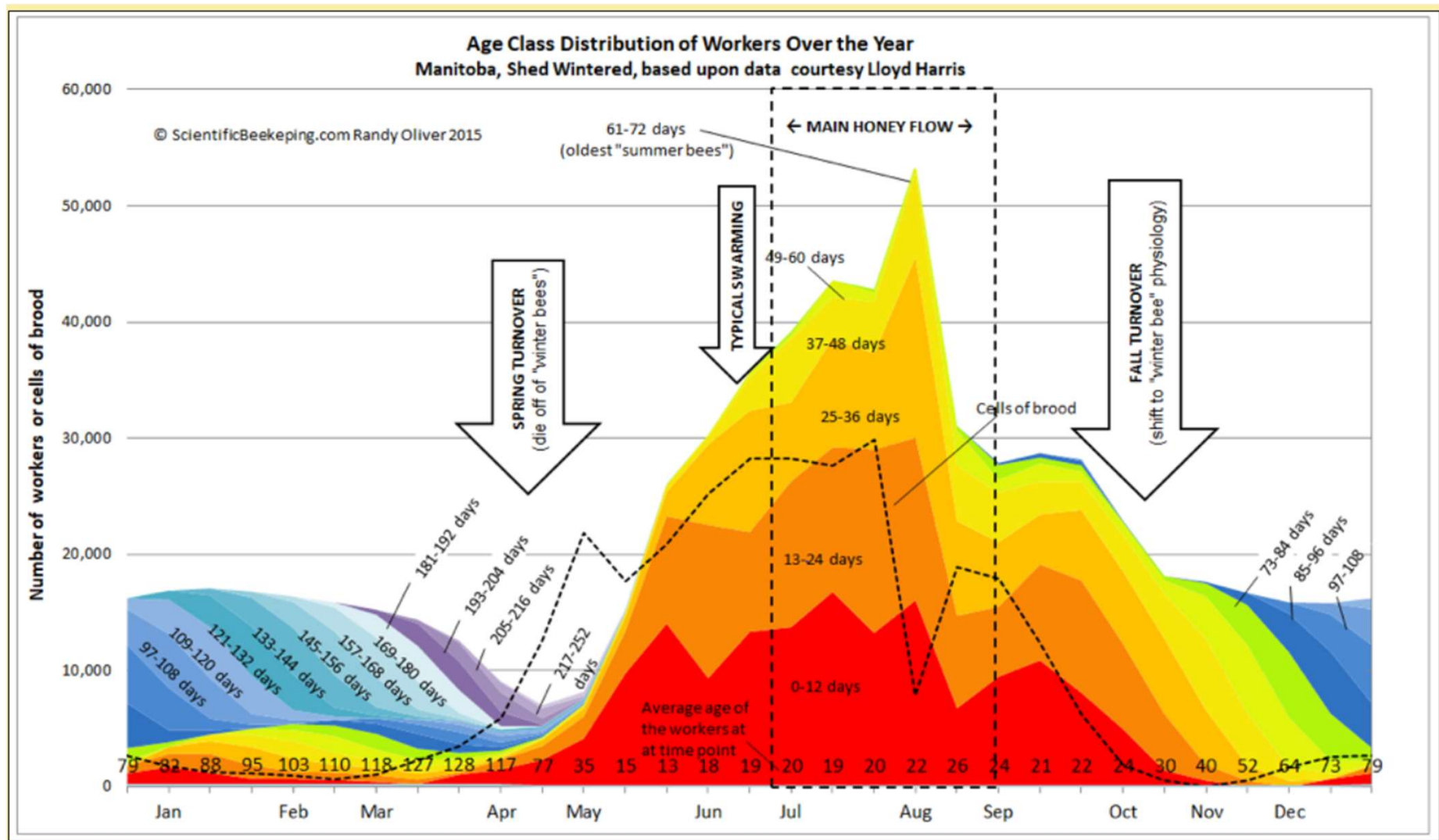


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Queen larva		250mg	200mg	16
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Yearly food requirement of colony				
Honey	120 – 150kg		carbohydrate (sugar)	
Pollen	60 – 80kg		protein (beef steak!)	

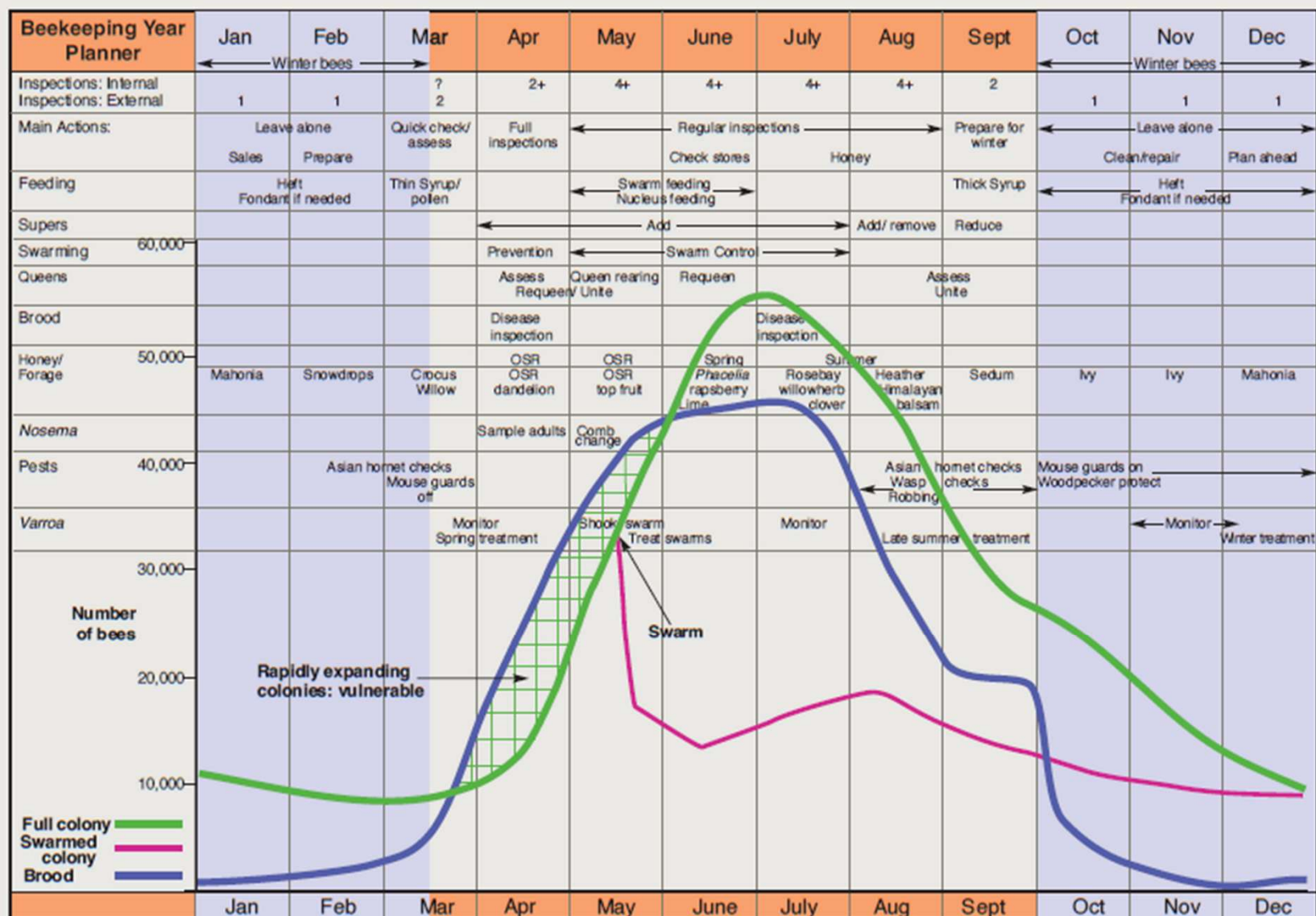




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Graph produced by Randy Oliver, ScientificBeekeeping.com



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If necessary feed 2:1 syrup - 1kg sugar to 625ml water

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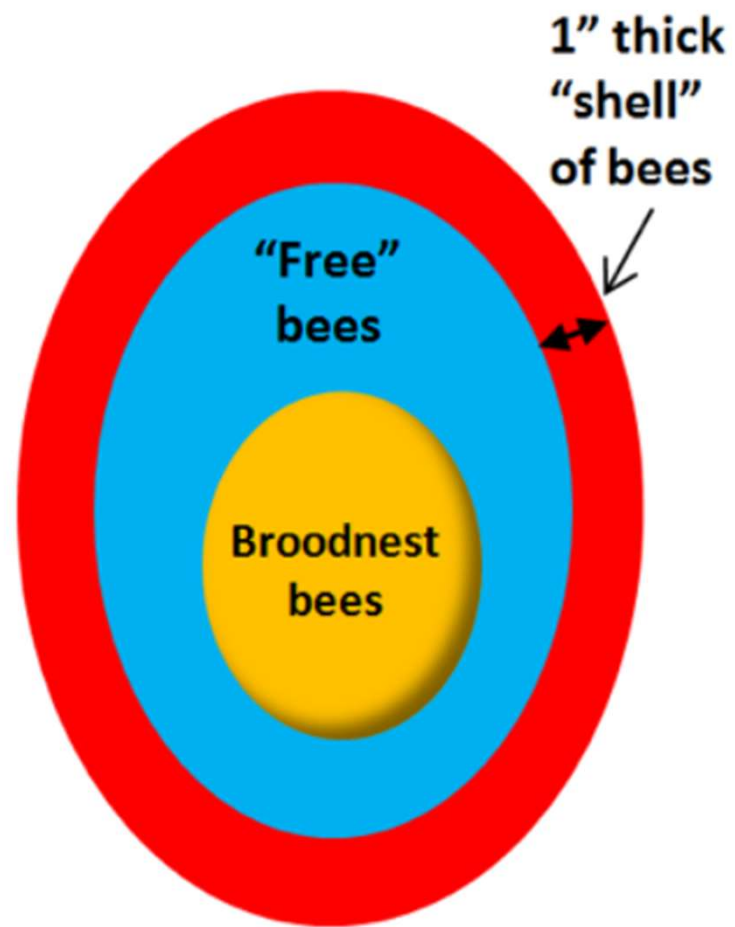
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Entrance height not more than 8mm or use mouse guard







B



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If warm, check food close to cluster – adjust frames **but  
do not disturb cluster**

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- Are the bees at top of frames – feed fondant
  - Pollen substitute in New Year

# Winter jobs

Clean smoker

Check/repair beesuit

Get together spare boxes and frames



COFFEE/TEA  
BREAK



Spring?

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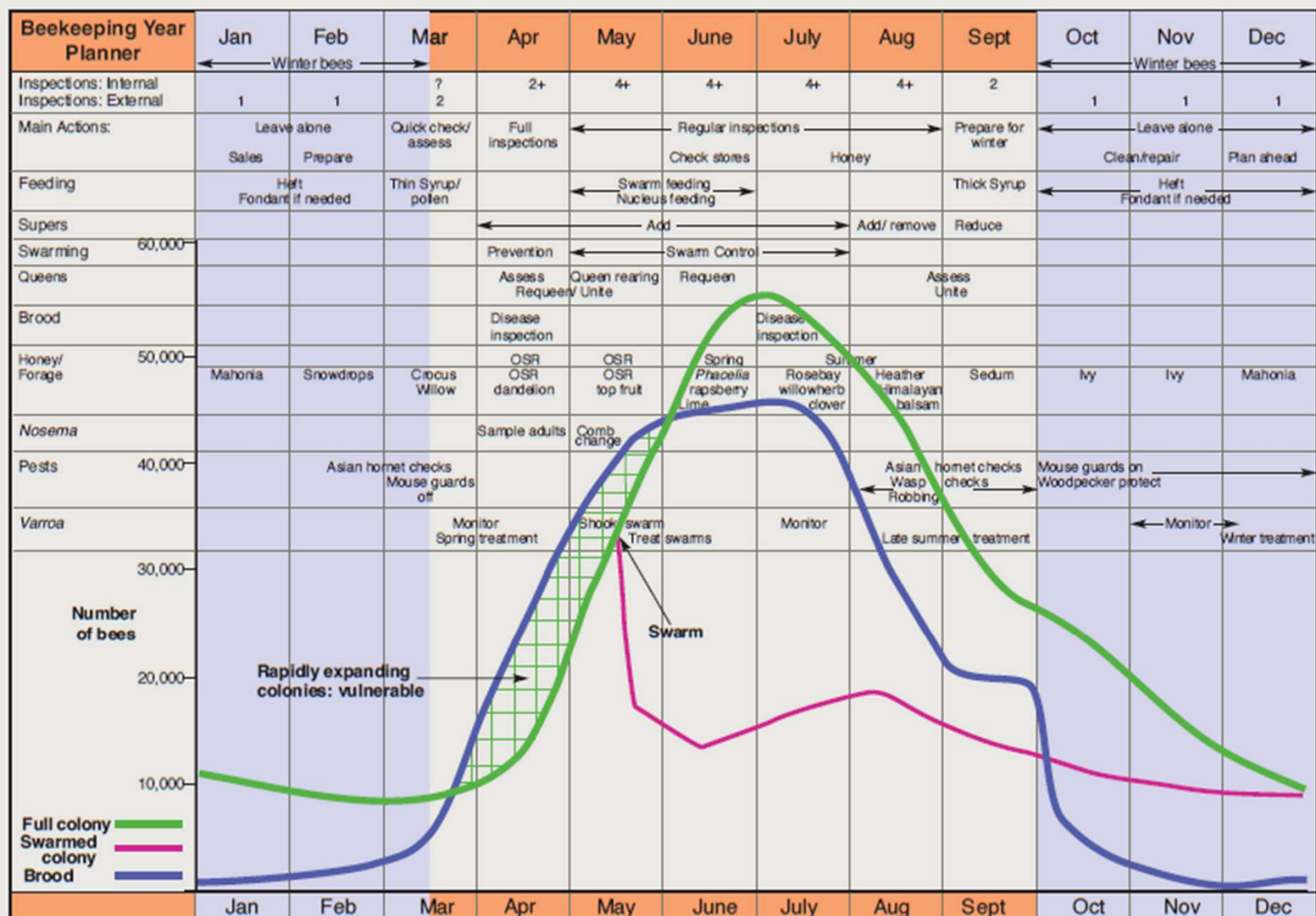
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- Brood present - eggs, larvae & sealed brood
  - Level of stores
  - Signs of disease
  - Signs of swarming
- **Keep a record of what you've seen**

**APIARY -**

Source of Swarm / Breeding of colony

[illegible]



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- Start thinking about changing out old brood frames

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- As you get more experienced re-queening and uniting colonies



## **Some forage plants for bees through the year**

### March – May

Dandelion	Dead nettle	Snowdrop	Crocus
Gorse	Hawthorn	Blackthorn	Holly
Willow – Hazel catkins			

### May – June

Rape	Apple	Field beans	Chestnut
Raspberry	Sycamore	Plum	Lime

### July – August

Blackberry	Clover	Heather	Lime
Asters			

### September – November

Ivy

Enjoy your beekeeping

and

**Keep the inspections going!!**

Q&A



or email: [nbkatrainingeducation@gmail.com](mailto:nbkatrainingeducation@gmail.com)  
if you have questions after we've finished