



Pre Season 'TO DO' List

1. Equipment

- a. Empty and thoroughly clean the shed
- b. Organise all equipment
- c. Make an inventory and shopping list
- d. Clean all equipment used last season
- e. Repair and repaint as necessary
- f. Make up frames
- g. Put frames into Brood Boxes or Supers and individually bag ready for use
- h. Clean all hive tools
- i. Clean all feeders
- j. Stock up on sugar/syrup/fondant
- k. Clean smoker
- l. Prepare store of smoker fuel
- m. Prepare lighter and buy fuel for the blow torch
- n. Ensure there are a couple of newspapers ready for any merge process

2. Swarm Preparation

- a. Make up Pagden Artificial Swarm packs complete with procedure
 - i. The Artificial Swarm
 - ii. The Mother Hive
- b. Make a pack for swarm retrieval

3. Clothing & Tools

- a. Ensure bee suit fits, is clean, zips work and that there are no holes in the veil
- b. Ensure gloves are clean

- c. Stock up on disposable gloves
- d. Clean Apiary boots
- e. Re-stock inspection toolkit
- f. New batteries for the torch and magnifying glass
- g. Right colour pen for queen marking
- h. Lidded box for wax scraps
- i. Clean bucket and bag of cleaning soda for cleaning hive tools between colonies

4. Paperwork

- a. Carry out and document the annual Apiary Risk Assessment (EMBA template)
- b. Review and update the Colony Inspection recording template
- c. Log onto BeeBase to update the location of the Apiary and the number of Colonies <https://www.nationalbeeunit.com/>

5. Medicines and Chemicals

- a. Review any stored medicines, check expiry dates, ensure they are stored in a separate airtight container
- b. Re-order if necessary
- c. Update the Medicines Record Sheet
- d. Ensure sheets are available for each colony or do one sheet per Apiary
- e. Download new sheets from BeeBase https://www.nationalbeeunit.com/PDFs/2_Diseases_and_Pests/Varroa/Veterinary_Medicine_Administration_Record-3.pdf

6. Apiary

- a. Clear branches
- b. Cut back vegetation
- c. Repair fences and hive stands if needed
- d. Ensure mobile inspection table for toolkit and hive parts is in good order
- e. Check hive straps are in good order
- f. Ensure a clean water source

7. Thinking ahead to the Harvest

- a. If planning to enter hive products into the EMBA or National Honey Shows ensure all necessary frames and equipment are ready
- b. Buy Jars and Labels
- c. Ensure all harvesting equipment is in good order