

Hives

- Most Popular hive in England **National**
- Most Popular hive in Scotland **Smith**
- Most popular hive in America **Langstroth**

Module 1 Honeybee Management

Hive Comparison

	Type	Beespace	Lugs	'000s Bees	Frames	Brood frame stores	Frame Size
We	WBC	Bottom	Long	45	10		British Standard: 14 x 8 ½
Should	Smith	Top	Short	50	11		British Standard: 14 x 8 ½
Never	(Modified) National * 18 1/8 x 18 1/8 x 8 7/8	Bottom	Long	50	11	5 lb (super 3 lb)	British Standard: 14 x 8 ½
Let	Langstroth	Top	Short	61.5	10		
Camegie	Commercial *	Bottom	Short	75	11	7 lb	
Decide	Deep National (14x12) *	Bottom	Long	70	11		
Dates	Dadant	Top	Short	88	11		

Table sorted in order of volume of hive.

* Compatible hives

THE HORROR OF BEE SPACE

- **NEXT MEETING:**
- **TUESDAY 21st FEBRUARY at 7:30**
- **MALCOLM BLAKE**
- **TALKS ABOUT "THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BEESPACE"**
- **At OVER STRATTON VILLAGE HALL TA13 5LL**

3 ft or 3 miles

- Go to club meetings to learn far more

What did I just learn?

Borage

Pollen

Double brood

OSR

Feeders



David Pearce

Haddeo

Bathealton

Nr Wiveliscombe

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Introduction to Beekeeping

Session 5 – Beekeeping Year

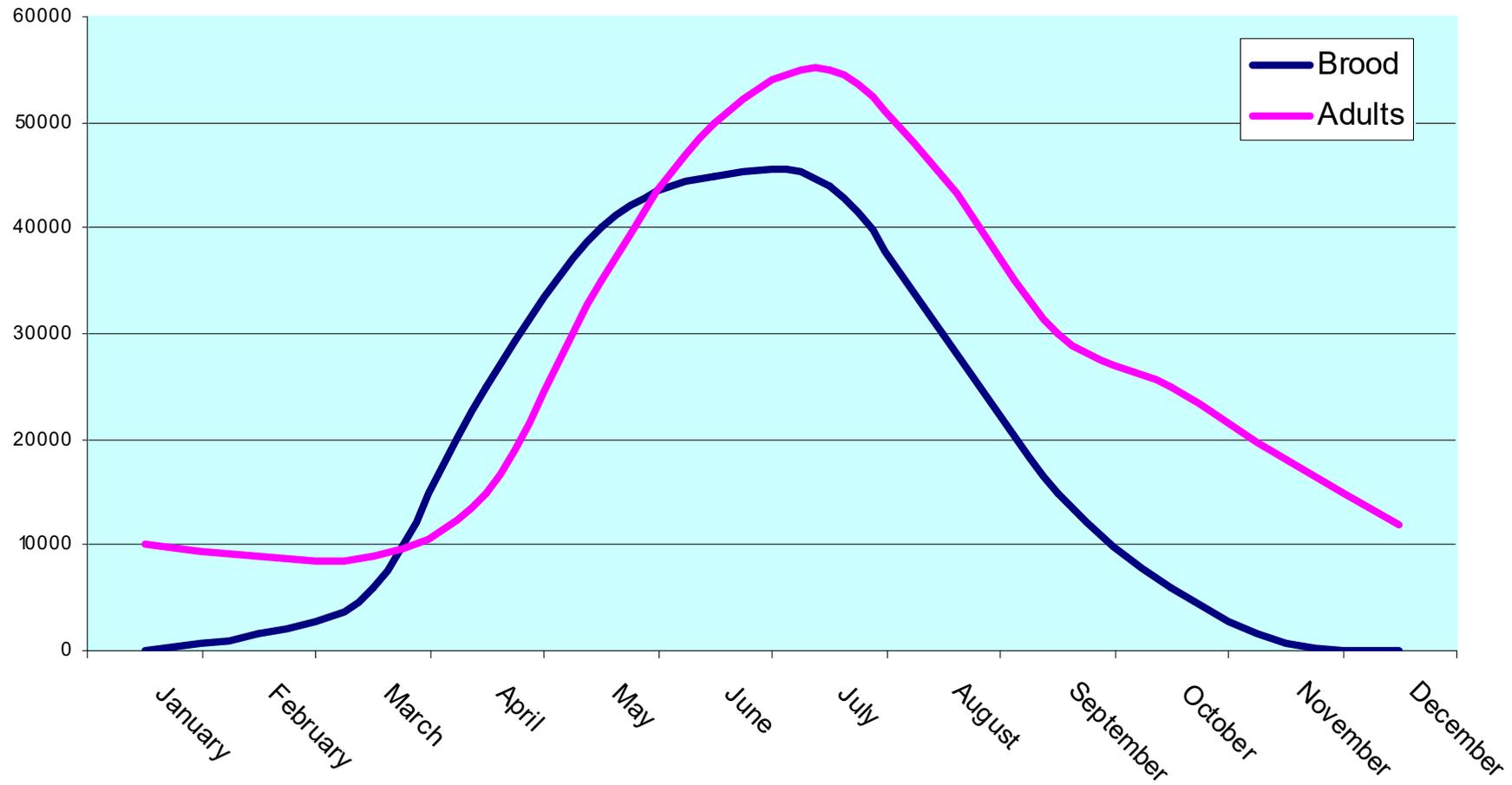
Spring

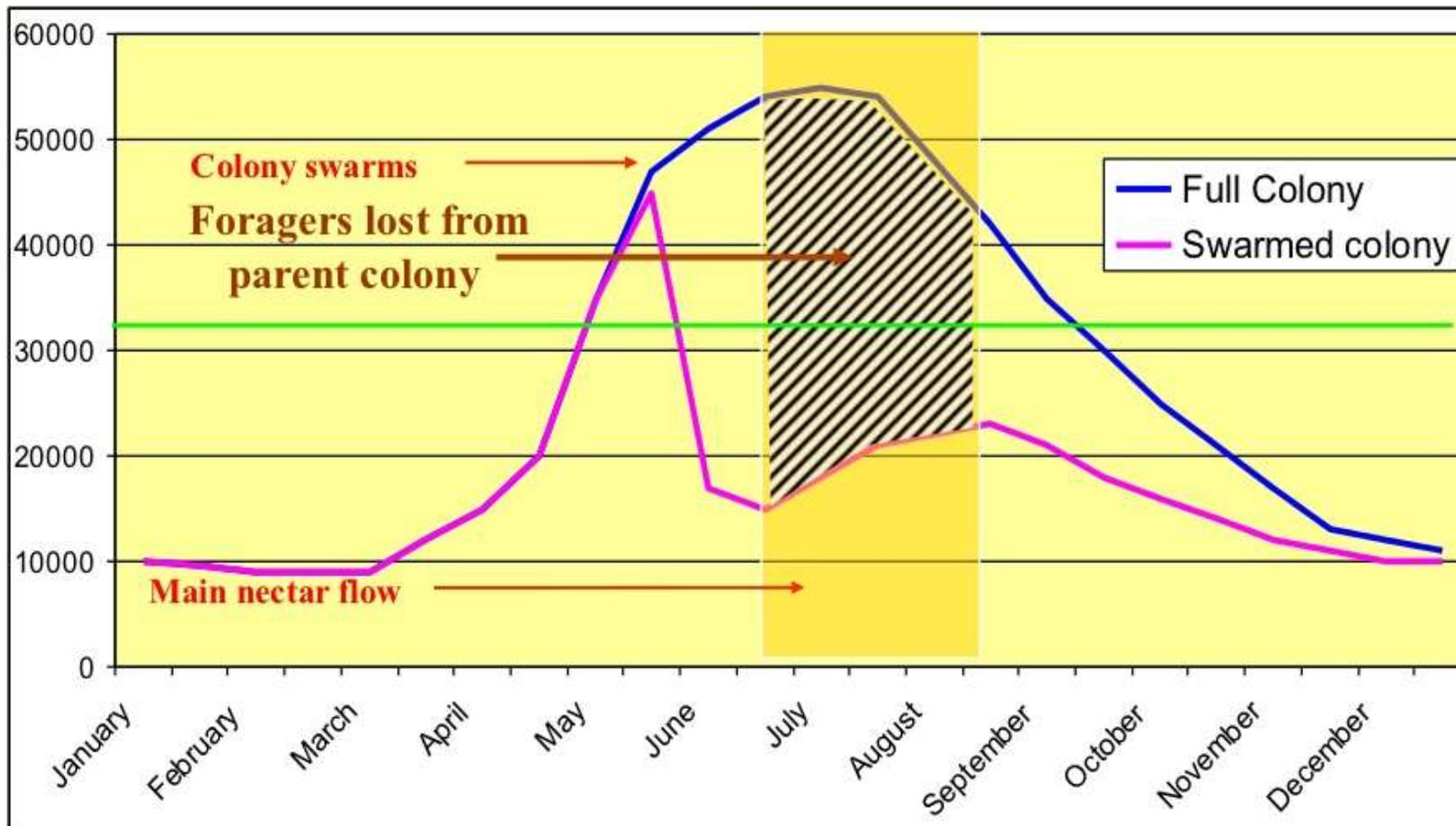
Summer

Autumn

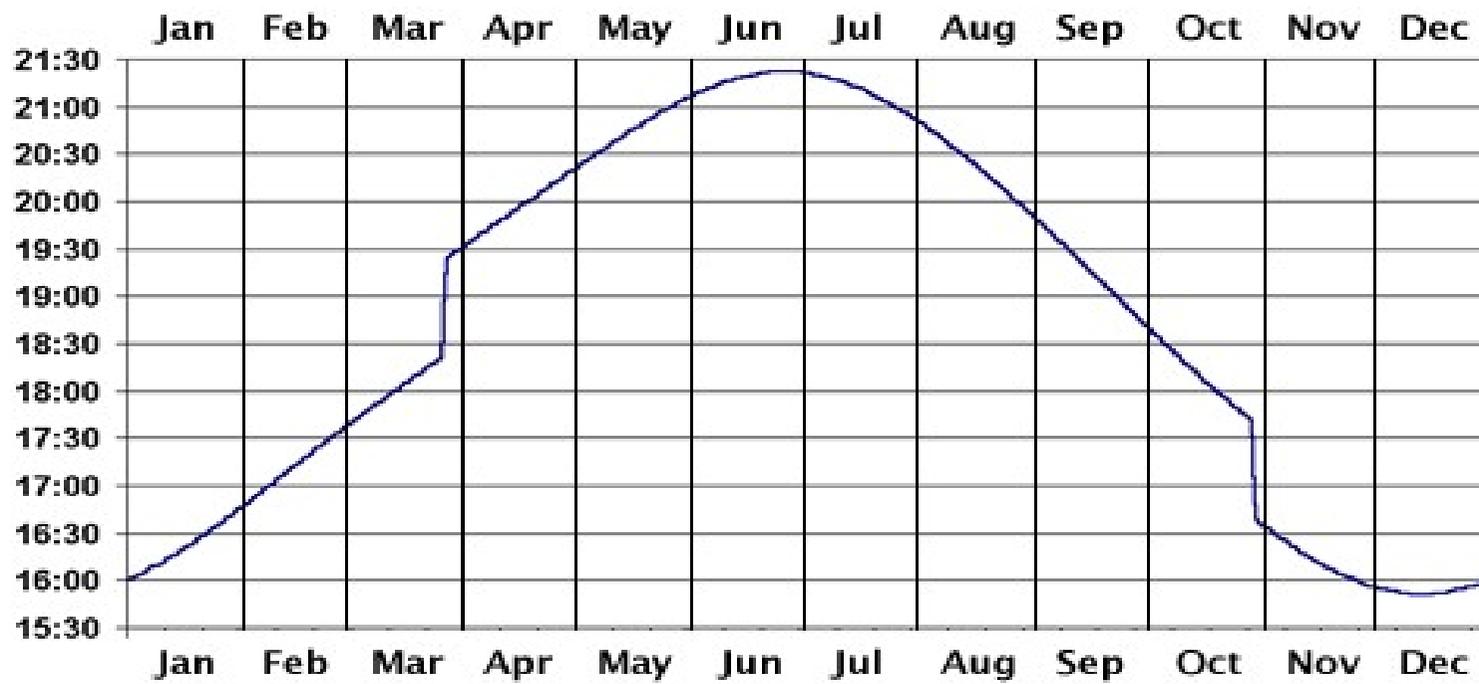
Winter

Colony Population through the year





Sunset Time



Spring

March, April, May

- Colony increases rapidly
- Monitor varroa levels
- First inspection
- Swarm control
- 1 week inspections



40,000 workers
1 queen*
400 drones

March

- Cold wet
- Bees fly occasionally
- Old bees die
- Colonies can starve
- Remove mouse guards
- Heft hives to see how they are
- Feed to stimulate the colony
- Check at the entrance

April

- 18c look in a hive, sunny shirt sleeves, take care!
- WHAT are you doing?
- Mark Queens and clip, why now?

5 Rules

1. Is there a laying Queen?
2. Is the brood pattern even?
3. Enough stores until next time?
4. Enough space for expansion?
5. Disease?

Apiary behaviour

Special measures





Sprays



Sets like concrete, ruins combs but most useful



TWO choices

Extraction and storage

- Uncapping
- Extractors
- Filters
- Storage
- Blend



Extra floral nectaries, laurel and beans, very pleasant honey



May

Weekly inspections

Check every frame for Queen Cups or Queen Cells/Swarms

Supers should be on

Varroa checks with inserts

Absolutely Vital



Don't be hidebound. Do what suits you.

Sue (marked and clipped 2015)

25th March

Cleaned floor, fitted mesh floor

4 frames of brood Good stores pollen and nectar

April 14th Rape pollen running in, wonder what rape type

7 frames of brood

queen cups. Look in 21 April

Summer

June, July, August



- Many bees = excess honey crop
- SWARMS
- Remove crop in early August
- Ensure hives are bee-tight
 - Robbing by bees and wasps
- Extract the honey and store

Up to 70,000 workers
1 queen
Up to 1000 drones

Autumn

September, October, November

- Remove old combs
- Treat for diseases
 - Varroa, nosema
- Look for other diseases
 - Foulbrood
 - Shake off all bees
- Check food stores



30,000 workers

1 queen

No drones

Prepare for poor weather

- Bees cluster to keep warm
- Use honey and shiver to generate heat
- Wind, frost pockets
- Mouse guards
- Protection (woodpeckers)







Where is it thinnest?



Winter

December, January, February

- Go on holiday!
- Crisis time for the colony
- Starvation
- Watch the entrance!
- Repair, clean and restore kit



10,000 workers
1 queen
No drones

But as if by Magic

Even within the depths of the cluster, the worker bees can sense the minutes of daily sunlight beginning to increase following the shortest day of the year, the winter solstice on 22nd December. Within a few days of the solstice, they will slowly begin to raise the cluster to a warmer brood-rearing temperature of 34-35°C. This increase in warmth triggers the queen to begin to lay a small number of eggs.

Some VERY useful kit

1. Hat
2. Mouse guard and more
3. Smoker cartridge for a big one!
4. Blow torch
5. 3 hive tools
6. 2 crown of thorns. Be very careful.
7. A marking pen. Be very careful.
8. Tennis strap. Glasses.
9. Clipping scissors. Serrated and curved.
10. Queen cage to imprison the queen while inspecting.