

# **SBA Technical Data Sheet Number 01 - Heavy Syrup Feeds**

## **Equipment**

Heavy Duty cooking pans  
Source of heat  
Wooden or metal spoon for stirring  
Measuring jug  
Scales (optional)  
Plastic Containers

## **Consumables**

Refined (white) granulated sugar (cane or beet) Fresh  
Water

## **Method of Preparation**

Put 600 ml water in a heavy saucepan and add 1 Kg refined granulated sugar (most is sold in 1 Kg bags). (This gives a 62.5% sugar solution). Heat the sugar and water to a point where all the sugar has just dissolved. Remove from the heat and allow to cool. If preferred, the sugar can be added to the water and allowed to stand, with occasional stirring, until the sugar dissolves. Naturally this will take longer but, if preparing a large volume of feed for a lot of hives, will do away with the need for a heat source.

Usually applied as a feed for winter using a rapid feeder. This allows the bees to take it down quickly and dry it down to 80% sugar concentration for long term storage.

## **Shelf Life**

Will keep for the duration of feeding in the feeder, but be aware that syrup will, especially if left exposed to the air, begin to ferment. If sealed into plastic bottles while still fairly hot (not below about 50° C.) this will extend its shelf life significantly. Shelf life indefinite if frozen in domestic deep-freeze. The addition of a very small amount of thymol crystals, without freezing, will also extend the shelf life somewhat. (Make a stock solution of 50g Thymol crystals to 250ml of surgical spirit and dose syrup with 0.5ml of stock solution per litre of syrup)

## **Health and Safety Information**

The following hazards are identified:

1 Danger or burns and scalds from:

1. Boiling sugar

2. Splashes from the pan
3. Utensils in contact with the hot sugar

Precautions:

1. Long handled stirring utensils
2. Children continuously supervised
3. Protective apron and covered sleeves
4. Utensils and products cooled or left out of reach until cool

DISCLAIMER: - Great care has been taken in the preparation of this technical sheet to ensure accuracy but the Scottish Beekeepers' Association cannot accept liability or responsibility. Beekeepers must therefore use the information at their own discretion and risk.

ISSUE NO 3 DATED AUGUST 2023 -500ml/1pt replaced by 600ml, Note advising Rapid feeder added. Alan Riach