

SBA Technical Data Sheet Number 02—Light Syrup Feeds

Use

For use as a spring stimulation feed, as an emergency summer feed or to feed a cast swarm or nucleus to enable it to draw comb. This concentration can be digested immediately by the bees and turned into energy.

Light 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 500 ml (1 pint) water in a heavy saucepan, and add 0.5Kg refined granulated sugar. 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.

Method of Application

May be fed using a contact feeder (most suitable in very cold spring weather) or a rapid feeder in warmer weather.

Shelf Life

Should only be made as required, as the water content will encourage rapid fermentation. Refrigeration will increase shelf life a little, and freezing will extend it indefinitely. 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. Protective apron and covered sleeves
2. Long handled stirring utensils
3. Children continuously supervised
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 Aug 2023 – open air feeding note removed and rapid feeder added -ABR