



Week-by-Week
Management of
your package
bees.

What to expect.
By Robert Burns
April 2018

Exceptionally cold April 2018 with intermittent warm days.

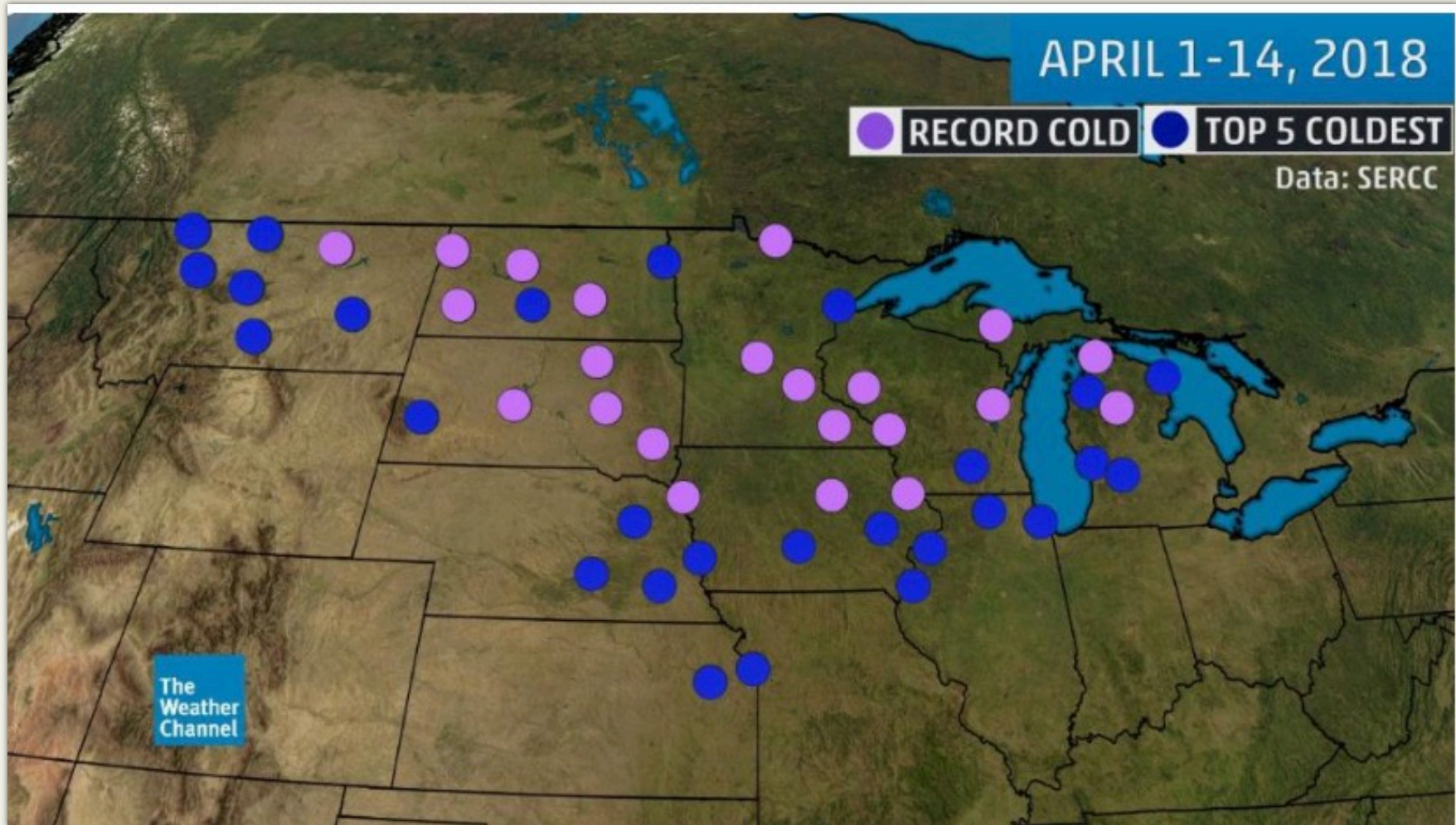
Many 1st timers received their bees as packages.

In order to build & grow, your new bees would need to be continuously fed.





















Package bees are like a swarm and are stimulated to build wax and grow.



Top 5 Coldest April's on Record



Top 5 Coldest April's on Record

Apr 2018 ▾						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1  36° 25°	2  37° 24°	3  40° 28°	4  46° 19°	5  67° 37°	6  52° 23°	7  43° 20°
8  37° 32°	9  42° 31°	10  61° 30°	11  78° 47°	12  81° 57°	13  81° 57°	14  55° 31°
15  31° 27°	16  51° 28°	17  66° 36°	18  55° 37°	19  58° 33°	20  63° 40°	21  64° 50°
22  64° 47°	23  73° 55°	24  75° 51°	25  59° 47°	26  67° 41°	27  74° 43°	28  67° 47°



Today's goals:

Understanding
some honey
bee biology
and basic
beekeeping
method in
colony
establishment.



8 Week Program of feeding and attention....

Ultimate goal =
equivalent of all 20 frames
drawn of a 2-story deep
Langstroth hive...by week 8
(Ex. 2018 April 12 > June 7)

Other tasks:

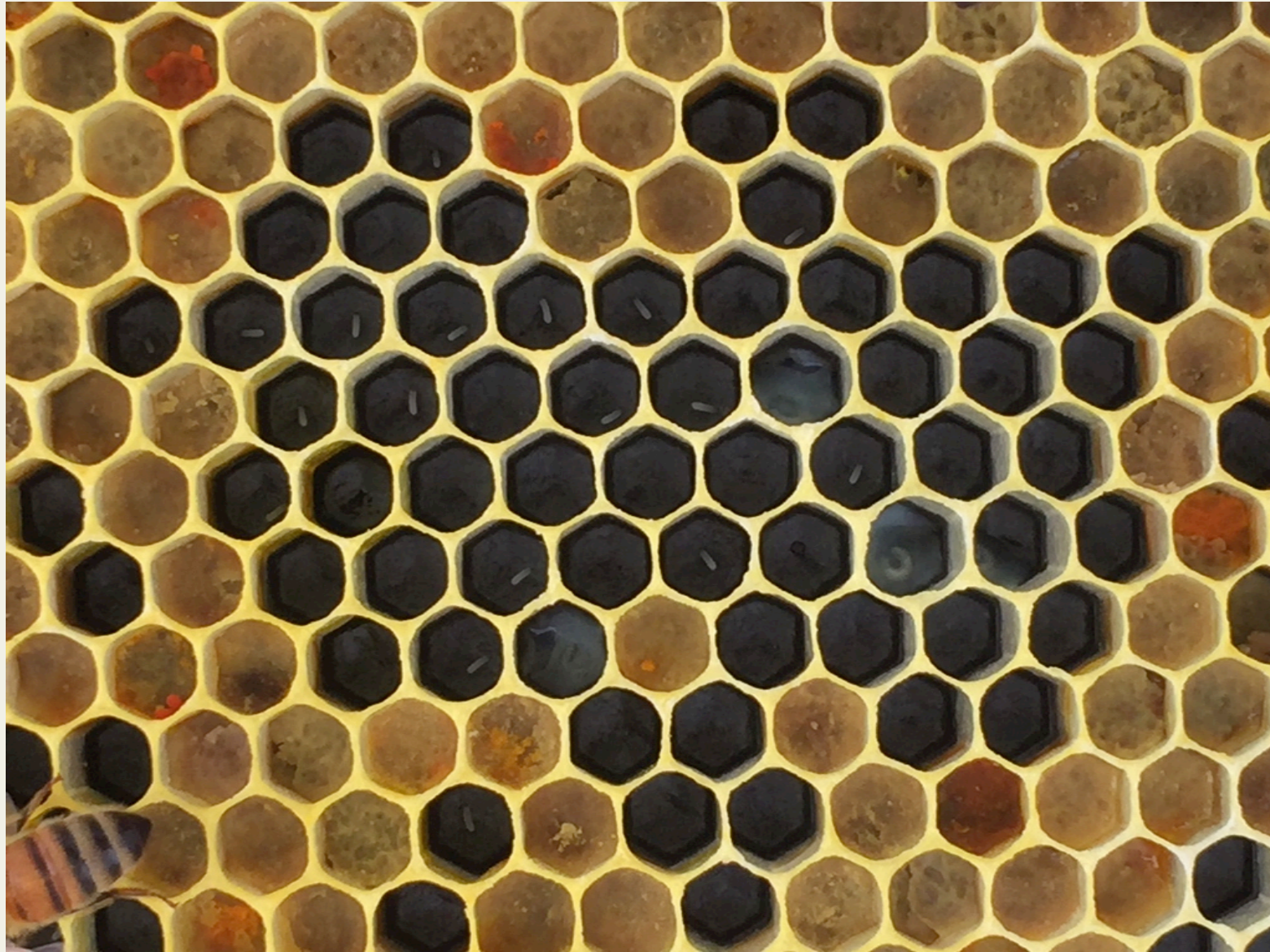
- Feeding
- Checking for egg-laying
- Looking at brood
- Monitoring wax building

After 8 weeks, adding a
honey super and queen
excluder is a BONUS!

Rule # 1 -- Do not forget to release the queen



5 - 7 days after queen releasing, check for eggs & larvae.



Honey Bee Development

Drone			Worker			Queen		
Day	Stage		Day	Stage		Day	Stage	
1	egg	1	1	egg	1	1	egg	1
2	egg	2	2	egg	2	2	egg	2
3	egg	3	3	egg	3	3	egg	3
4	1st larval	1	4	1st larval	1	4	1st larval	1
5	2nd larval	2	5	2nd larval	2	5	2nd larval	2
6	3rd larval	3	6	3rd larval	3	6	3rd larval	3
7	4th larval	4	7	4th larval	4	7	4th larval	4
8	4th larval	5	8	larva	5	8	larva	5
9	larva	6	9	larva	5.5	9	larva / pre-pupa	1
10	larva / pre-pupa	6.5	10	pre-pupa	1	10	pre-pupa	2

Honey Bee Development

Drone			Worker			Queen		
Day	Stage		Day	Stage		Day	Stage	
11	pre-pupa	1	11	pre-pupa	2	11	pupa	3
12	pre-pupa	2	12	pupa	3	12	pupa	4
13	pre-pupa	3	13	pupa	4	13	pupa	5
14	pre-pupa	4	14	pupa	5	14	pupa	6
15	pupa	5	15	pupa	6	15	pupa	7
16	pupa	6	16	pupa	7	16	adult	8
17	pupa	7	17	pupa	8			
18	pupa	8	18	pupa	9			
19	pupa	9	19	pupa	10			
20	pupa	10	20	pupa	11			
21	pupa	11	21	adult	12			
22	pupa/adult	12.5						
23	adult	13						
24	adult	14						

Pollen stored as Bee Bread = Protein & Vitamins



Rule # 2 -- do not let them go without syrup – continue to feed (@8 weeks)



IMPORTANT for GROWTH light (sugar) Syrup = carbohydrates – energy
- stimulates like a nectar flow & promotes continued wax building





8 Weeks of syrup feeding & attention....

Types of feeding:

- **Rapid feeding**
 - Ideal for spring thru fall but not necessarily in cold weather
 - Tray above the hive
- **Contact feeding**
 - Accessible in cool weather and better for emergency
 - Need empty box
- **Frame feeding**
 - Looks like brood frames
 - Need to access by opening the hive



...No matter how you are feeding ...

TIPS: -avoid open feeding and spilling
-prevent robbing
-avoid feeding honey



Feed your swarm captures, too!



WEEK # 1 - The week after hiving your bees

Floral Conditions – varies yearly

Generally good pollen flow and beginning of nectar* but not dependable.

Weather – frequent cool days and cold nights.

Bees –

Taking in syrup....clustering for warmth & wax building; preparing the next for brood production. Queen should have been released and accepted.

Beekeeper - inspects for comb building and plans for next inspection.



WEEK # 2 & # 3 - The few weeks after hiving

Floral Conditions – improving reliable resources – varies by year

Weather – possible continued frequent cool days and cold nights

Bees –

Taking in syrup....clustering for warmth and wax construction

Increase in brood production & caretaking

Queen continues to ramp up egg-laying

Beekeeper - continue brief inspections and supplying syrup

- monitor comb building and control burr comb situations...



8 Weeks of feeding
and attention...

Prevent robbing with
entrance reducers
until population
grows





WEEK # 4 and beyond.... What should the beekeeper be seeing :

Beekeeper - continue brief inspections and supplying syrup

May manipulate frames for expansion Do not breakup up the brood nest

Bees – Brood should be nearing – hatch out time = population rebound





WEEK # 4 thru 5 - The weeks after hiving your honey bees

Floral Conditions – improving reliable resources – varies by year

Weather – possible continued frequent cool days and cold nights

2018 was different

Bees – Taking in syrup....clustering for warmth and wax construction

Increase in brood production growth in bee population

Beekeeper - continue brief inspections and supplying syrup





@WEEK # 5 - The weeks after hiving your honey bees

ADDING THE 2ND HIVE BODY





WEEKS 6 – 7 – 8

Final 8 weeks of feeding and attention....

Other tasks:

- Checking for queen-rite
- Looking at brood
- Monitoring wax building

Getting to add a honey super and queen excluder is a bonus after week 8 !

Ultimate goal =
equivalent of all 20 frames
drawn of a 2-story deep
Langstroth hive...by week 8
(Ex. 2018 April 12 > June 7)

@WEEK # 8 - STOP FEEDING

The Girls are on their own for food and continued seasonal growth.





For EVERYBODY...you're not done! Dr. Young Park, KHPA Fall 2017 meeting

Keep in Mind

When you opened top and inner cover, make sure that you removed old propolis so that honey bees are able to re-build structures properly.

In July, August, and September in Arkansas, you **MUST** observe your hive often and do not wait if you noticed some peculiar behavior of honey bees.

