



SUGAR CAKES

Early winter recipes:

These recipes are used while the queen is not laying many eggs, which is generally from mid-October through mid-February.

100% sucrose (table sugar)

1. Mix 5lb sugar with 7-8oz warm water to make mixture sticky. Start adding slowly until mixture is firm not wet.
2. Allow mixture to dry a little (overnight).
3. Place the mixture into a ziplock bag with two wooden spacers.
4. Cut a hole in the bottom of the bag so the bees can feed.
5. Put directly on the top bars of the colony (a shim may be required to accommodate the thickness of the bag).

90% Sucrose plus a pollen substitute This is a richer and more complete feed.

1. Dry mix 4.5 lb sugar with .5lb pollen substitute.
2. Then mix with 7- 8 oz water (same as above).

Makes a sugar cake with 5% protein to help bees maintain healthy cellular functions.

70% sucrose plus pollen

Late winter recipe – only used when the bees can fly to cleanse:

1. Dry mix 3.5 lb sugar with 1.5lb pollen substitute.
2. Then mix with 7- 8 oz water (same as above).

Makes a sugar cake with about 15% protein to support the workers while they are feeding the queen during increasing egg laying.

Notes:

1. You can adjust the liquid content and make the cake even more nutritious by adding pure oils like olive oil or diluted honey or even HFCS as replacement for some of the water.
2. Recommended pollen substitute is AP23 by Dadant or any equivalent. If you make your own, the protein substitute the protein you use must be in the “isolate” form to avoid the indigestible sugars. That’s why it’s better to purchase the substitute from a known bee supplier.