

Brad Shaw's Sugar Syrup Recipe

1:1 sugar syrup = 1 lb. white sugar (2 ¼ cups) to 1 pint of water

2:1 sugar syrup = 2 lbs. white sugar to 1 pint of water (use hot tap water to dissolve the sugar)

Feed 1:1 syrup to nucs and packages during the spring and summer. Switch to 2:1 the first of September, so the bees can build up a honey reserve for the winter. Stop feeding sugar syrup the first of November. Colonies need 60+ lbs of honey by November 1st to survive the winter. If additional feed is needed during the winter, then feed white sugar, slightly moistened with water. Spread newspaper over the top bars and spread sugar over the paper. It helps to add a 3/4" shim to the rim of the inter cover and then turn the cover over so there is space for the sugar. During a dearth, a strong colony will suck down a quart of sugar syrup about every one to two days depending on the population size. Do not let the syrup feeder go empty. Rooster Booster products can sometimes be found at Tractor Supply or a farmer's cooperative, otherwise the products can be ordered online.

To five gallons of sugar syrup, add the following:

- 5 gallons of syrup = 25 lbs. of sugar + 3 gallons and 1 pint of hot tap water for 1:1 syrup. I only feed 1:1 syrup as I buy sugar in 50 lb. bags. It's just easier to split a 50 lb. bag in half when mixing a batch of syrup.
- 1.5 cups of white vinegar (lowers ph of syrup to mimic ph of nectar and prevents mold growth)
- 1 cup of lemon juice
- 3 tbsp of Rooster Booster Liquid B-12 Vitamin Poultry Supplement
- 3 tbsp of Rooster Booster Vitamins & Electrolytes with Lactobacillus poultry supplement. If you can't find the Vitamins & Electrolytes with Lactobacillus, then substitute with Rooster Booster Poultry Cell
- ½ cup of Ultra Bee High Protein Pollen Substitute Dry Feed (from Mann Lake)

Mix sugar syrup in a 5-gallon bucket, with a honey gate installed to facilitate filling the feeding jars. An electric drill with a paint mixer attachment quickly dissolves the sugar and mixes the above ingredients. Put 25 lbs. of sugar in the bucket; add 2-gallons of hot tap water and mix. Then add the other ingredients and mix. Lastly, add the remaining 1 gallon and 1 pint of hot water and mix slowly. Fill the feeder jars and allow the syrup to cool before placing the jars on the hive.

To one gallon of sugar syrup, add the following:

- 1/3 cup of white vinegar
- 3 tbsp of lemon juice
- 2 tsp of Rooster Booster Liquid B-12 Vitamin Poultry Supplement
- 2 tsp of Rooster Booster Vitamins & Electrolytes with Lactobacillus Poultry Supplement
- 4 tsp of Ultra Bee High Protein Pollen Substitute Dry Feed (from Mann Lake)

To ½ gallon of sugar syrup, add the following:

- 2.5 tbsp of white vinegar
- 5 tsp of lemon juice
- 1 tsp of Rooster Booster Liquid B-12 Vitamin Poultry Supplement
- 1 tsp of Rooster Booster Vitamins & Electrolytes with Lactobacillus Poultry Supplement
- 2 tsp of Ultra Bee High Protein Pollen Substitute Dry Feed (from Mann Lake)

To one quart of sugar syrup, add the following:

- 3.5 tsp of white vinegar
- 2.5 tsp of lemon juice
- 0.5 tsp of Rooster Booster Liquid B-12 Vitamin Poultry Supplement
- 0.5 tsp of Rooster Booster Vitamins & Electrolytes with Lactobacillus Poultry Supplement
- 1 tsp of Ultra Bee High Protein Pollen Substitute Dry Feed (from Mann Lake)

Note: Brad Shaw is a sideline beekeeper operating in Augusta County, VA, in the Shenandoah Valley. He manages around 400 colonies. See 'Gentle Bees Apiaries' on Facebook