DELTA RIDGE TECHNOLOGIES

# Beekeeping Inspection Cycle

*Keyed to bloom, not to the calendar*

INSPECTIONS KEYED TO BLOOM, NOT TO THE CALENDAR



*Bees work on what is flowering, and flowering moves north with the season. Write the first bloom dates for your area once, then the cycle below tells you what to look for and what to do.*

| BLOOM SIGNAL | ROUGHLY | WHAT TO DO | WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR |
|---|---|---|---|
| Redbud and maple | late winter | First full inspection on a mild day, 55F or above | Queen, brood, stores, no mould |
| Dandelion | early spring | Reverse boxes if needed, add space | Brood expanding, feed if light |
| Fruit bloom | spring | Watch for swarm signs every week | Queen cells, crowded brood nest |
| Blackberry and clover | late spring | Add supers, start swarm prevention | Nectar coming in, comb drawn |
| Sourwood or basswood | early summer | Super for the main flow | Weight gain, room to work |
| Dearth, hot and dry | mid summer | Reduce entrances, watch robbing | No nectar, strong hives robbing weak |
| Goldenrod | late summer | Final harvest decision, treat for mites if testing says so | Mite counts, brood pattern |
| Nothing flowering | autumn | Weigh hives, feed if light, mouse guards | Stores, queen status, entrance reduced |

SAMPLE

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