

UTBA Beekeeping Calendar for Toronto & GTA



Marion Whittam,
Interim Vice Chair, UTBA

UTBA Beekeeping Calendar for Toronto & GTA Update

- The UTBA Beekeeping Calendar for Toronto & GTA is now complete.
- It has been posted on the UTBA website: Beekeeping Resources section. <https://urbantorontobeekeepers.org>
- The calendar is a 24 page beekeeping resource that can be downloaded.
- It contains information about monthly tasks to perform indoors and in the apiary, the climate data for Toronto and GTA, flowers in bloom each month as well as beautiful pictures of bees and bee yards.
- In addition, the final page of the calendar gives information about urban beekeeping, and also references about bee keeping videos, blogs, websites and books.

UTBA Beekeeping Calendar for Toronto & GTA Update

- My sincere thanks to the dedicated team of volunteers who worked for 4 months from November 2021 until the end of February 2022 to create this beautiful calendar.

Credits

- Alin Dumitrescu: Beekeeping Tasks Indoor and Apiary
- Damian Maddelena: Climate Data
- Michelle Wolfson: Flowers of the Month
- Alexandra Hutan : Design
- Alexandra Hutan and Alin Dumitrescu : Photos
- Kate Maddelena, Damian Maddelena and Michelle Wolfson: Editing
- Michelle Wolfson: Posting on the UTBA website



Back to Basics: Potential Bee Educated Topics



Based on the new UTBA 2022 Bee Keeper's Calendar



Marion Whittam,
Interim Vice Chair, UTBA
March 22 2022

Back to Basics: Potential Bee Educated Topics

- In depth beekeeping education can generally take years to complete and requires study, practical experience and mentorship.
- The monthly UTBA Bee Educated sessions lasts only 30 to 40 minutes, is focused on scientific facts, and is intended to give a summary of basic beekeeping techniques for the new Beekeeper.
- The proposed topics for the Bee Educated sessions will be based on the newly created UTBA Beekeeping Calendar.
- The goal for developing this curriculum is to assist our UTBA Education Coordinator in the planning of the Bee Educated session throughout the beekeeping year.
- Our Education Coordinator can then pick or choose one topic or a couple of small topics based on our membership's learning needs and the guest speaker's area of expertise.

Back to Basics: Potential Bee Educated Topics

January : What you need to know.

- Basic bee biology
- Equipment
- Hive set up
- Best locations
- Summary of the Bees Act legal requirements
- How to choose a NUC and or Queen supplier



February: Reasons for a potential colony loss

- Colony loss from previous year's statistics
- Tips for diagnosing the potential reason for hives

Back to Basics: Potential Bee Educated Topics

March: Pest Management

- Pest Management & Monitoring and Common Hive Diseases
- Focus on varroa mites and treatments as necessary throughout the season
- How to recognize American Foul Brood, European Foul Brood and Nozema
- Bee viruses

April: Spring Management Techniques

- Opening the hive tips
- Observations to make and record
- Management of animal pests of the hive (e.g., skunks, racoons and bears), Bear fences.
- How to recognize the difference between Wax Moth and Small Hive Beetle and the best practices



Back to Basics: Potential Bee Educated Topics

May: Techniques to Make Simple Splits and Capturing Swarms

- Making Simple Splits
- Capturing Swarms and the next steps
- When and How to add Supers and or queen excluders

June: Summer Management Techniques

- How to move hives to a different location
- Tips to harvest the honey, use of various techniques bees escapes, blowers, brushing
- Tips to extract honey, bottling honey and OMAFRA labelling requirements
- Cleaning and storage of equipment and frames after extraction

July and August : No UTBA meetings



Back to Basics: Potential Bee Educated Topics

September: Fall Management Techniques

- Preparing hives for winter : Management of Varroa mites
- Weighing of hives to determine winter stores
- Techniques for supplemental feeding if necessary

October : Best Management Practices in Advance of Winter

- Selecting a suitable winter cover and overwintering location
- Entrance reducers/ mouse guards
- Oxalic treatment techniques



Back to Basics: Potential Bee Educated Topics

November: Winter Management Techniques

- Tips to help you bees survive the winter
- Fondant usage and application
- Wind break techniques
- Closing the hives
- Equipment storage over the winter
- Member suggestions for education topics and speakers



December: UTBA fun social event, potluck, bee trivial pursuit activity

Feedback and Comments.

