

Check the queen's egg laying and brood pattern, and for symptoms of disease. Re-queen any hives with failing or poorly performing queens. Divide colonies at fruit tree bloom to recoup winter loss, increase apiary size, and for swarm control. If you did not get to it in April, sample colonies for Varroa mites using sugar or alcohol roll and if detected above threshold, apply mite treatments. Inspect new package bee colonies for health and queen condition. Manipulate frames if necessary to aid in comb construction and continue feeding nucs and package bees until they have drawn out the comb in their brood chambers. Manage new hives for population buildup and swarm prevention. REMEMBER that "all beekeeping is local" and the time to apply some of these measures will depend on where you live in the state. Check with your local MSBA chapter if you're not sure.