

AUTUMN: The beekeeping season is starting to wind down. The queen has drastically reduced her egg laying and the hive is making its last foraging push before winter. If weather permits, sample colonies for varroa mites one final time. It's not unusual to have a spike in varroa mite populations during this month as surrounding hives collapse from varroa infestations and mites migrate into your hives (called the "mite bomb" effect). Make sure you follow the label instructions if you have honey supers on the hive. Harvest any extra honey produced during the fall honey flow and remove empty/partially filled supers. Extract only ripe (capped) honey and feed the uncapped or partially filled portion back to the bees above the inner cover. Feed heavy (2:1) syrup or frames of honey to hives low on honey stores. Mouse guards should already be on entrances! Take measures to prevent robbing, and be sure to register for MSBA's Annual Meeting in October! The meeting is \$35 if registered by October 9th, \$45 after that date.