## Backyard Beekeeping Timeline for California

### First Year Beekeeper

- Read and Take Classes; Talk to other Beekeepers; Order Packages or Nucs; Order and Prepare hive equipment; Determine Feeding and Mite management protocols

**JANUARY-MARCH**

- Pick-up/Install Packages and/or Nucs; Ensure queen is present and egg-laying; Ensure bees are drawing the comb properly; Feed syrup to all packages; Add Drone comb if desired

**APRIL**

- Feed syrup to hives with undrawn frames; Inspect colonies regularly; Become more comfortable in the hives; Ensure all stages of brood are present

**MAY**

- Test mite levels in colonies Potentially treat; Unlikely to extract honey from a package; Likely add second super to hives

**JUNE**

- Test mite levels in colonies Potentially treat; Unlikely to extract honey from a package; Likely add second super to hives; Remove Drone comb

**JULY**

- Nectar flow is generally over or very minimal; Test mite population and treat as needed; Reduce and equalize/combine colonies as needed; Check queen has space to lay; Ensure colonies are still rearing brood; Extract and bottle honey; Add Entrance reducers and prevent robbing

**AUGUST**

- Equalize/Combine hives, clear dead-out equipment, define hive losses; Continue to prevent robbing, reduce colonies if needed; Ensure an egg-laying queen is present; Test and treat for mites if needed, feed syrup, feed pollen patties

**SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER**

### Beekeeper w/Previous Hives

- Check hives for survival and strength; Order replacement/expansion Packages or Nucs; Clean dead hive equipment; Determine Feeding and Mite management protocols

**JANUARY**

- Continue to check hives for survival and strength; Feed Colonies Syrup and Pollen; Test For mite levels in larger colonies; Potentially treat colonies

**FEBRUARY**

- Provide Space/Supers for expanding colonies; Evaluate Queen laying pattern; Test mite levels in colonies Potentially treat; Add Drone comb if desired

**MARCH**

- Provide Space/Supers for expanding colonies; Evaluate Queen laying pattern; Split strong colonies; Queen Rearing; Replace poor/failing queens; Monitor for Supercedure; Test mite levels in colonies Potentially treat

**APRIL**

- Provide Space/Supers for expanding colonies; Avoid hives from being “honey-bound”; Add honey supers to production colonies; Test mite levels in colonies Potentially treat

**MAY-JUNE**

- Provide Space/Supers for expanding colonies; Avoid hives from being “honey-bound”; Add honey supers to production colonies; Test mite levels in colonies Potentially treat; Remove Drone comb; Extract and bottle honey

**JULY**

- More information at: cambp.ucdavis.edu

Questions? Email: camasterbee@gmail.com