



REPORT No.3

September 2012

The miserable summer continues to affect the bees. In the middle of August, after a week of warm and sunny weather, the bees had filled the comb they had produced with honey stores. By the first week in September, they had used up a lot of this honey to keep themselves going during the cold rainy days. This shortage of honey means I will need to give the bees some sugar syrup solution, to ensure they have enough stores to see them through the winter.

There is evidence now that they are becoming aware of the shorter days and the reducing supplies of pollen and nectar. The bees have been busy with propolis, sealing small gaps around the hive. Propolis is a resinous mixture that honey bees collect from tree buds and sap flows. It is usually brown in colour and sticky. The worker bees will also evict the male drones who will then die off. They are not needed by the hive to survive over winter.

Jim Binning

Beekeeper