

Bee Food Option recipes: Hard Candy and Grease Patties

by Peggy Clemons, August 2014

Winter Hard Candy Board

This is enough for 2 12" X 16" Boxes

4 cups water
~40 cups sugar- or about 25 pounds
2 tablespoons- 1/3 cup trace mineral salt
green tea bag (optional -your tea of choice or none)
2 tablespoons Pro Health (optional)

heat water- and slowly add sugar- stirring constantly bring to a boil- (add the tea bag as water is coming to a boil before sugar added and remove when you start adding the sugar)
looking for a "cream of wheat texture" keep stirring
bring to a boil until reaches "hard ball" - "soft crack" stage about 260 -280 degrees

you can test in a cool cup of water to see if sets up -you will see a hard thread but not brittle -will set up into a ball- but won't break- a little pliable
be careful this is very hot lava it will spit at you as it boils

Then carefully pour into 2 boxes
slowly let cool undisturbed

I make this in a 4 gallon stainless container

Trace mineral salts a \$5.99 at Big R for 25 pounds or about 5 gallons (thats a lot of salt) you can also add to your bee water source if you'd like

Pro Health is a product I have used that has Lemongrass oil and Spearmint oil
I don't use this when Honey supers are on

Bee Grease Patties

3 pound can of Crisco- (or any solid vegetable shortening)
8 cups sugar
1 pound of honey (I use the honey and wax mix out of my uncapping tank)
2/3 cup trace mineral salts (I place in plastic bag and hit with a hammer a few times to break up the big pieces) this will give mix a pink color
2 tablespoons Pro Health (optional) (not when honey supers are on)

I have also added Bee Pro Pollen sub in spring to patty prior to honey supers

I mix this in a 4 gallon stainless container by hand- It seems easier to clean up.
Mix well -

I put in refrigerator to cool and stiffen

then use an ice cream scoop to make a patty
flatten

place between 2 pieces of wax paper
stack
can freeze what you don't use
This makes about 25 patties

These can be on the hive year around- Ok with honey supers on (but not if you added the Pro Health)
each patty will last about a month--

I try to keep a grease patty on all the time

I usually make a spring batch and a winter batch- the spring batch doesn't have the Pro Health.

Hope this is helpful

You can add your own special recipe additions too

These have worked for me

Peggy Clemons Pinebluff Spotted Mule Ranch