

Make your own pollen patties!

“How To”

None of the protein supplemental foods fed to honey bees is a complete replacement for natural pollen; however, several brewer's yeast products, wheat, and soybean flour, fed singly or in combination, can be used to improve the nutrition of colonies when natural pollen are scarce.

**Just to clarify a point: Pollen substitute patties have NO pollen in them.
Pollen supplement patties HAVE pollen in them.**

Pollen Substitute Patty recipe (1Kg)

226gr Fat-free soy flour

340gr Granulated sugar

28gr Brewer's yeast

340gr Sugar Syrup (2:1)

Mix dry ingredients together. Then add dry mix slowly to syrup until mixture is like stiff bread dough.

Press between wax paper and **keep frozen until use**, which will save guard your patties from getting mouldy!

(Brewer's yeast, use: **Saccharomyces cerevisiae in powdered form.**)

(Soy Flour, use: **Fat-Free expeller-processed soybean flour**)

Why and when should you feed?

Many beekeepers can easily tell if their hives have stores of honey. But what is usually missed going into winter and in pre-spring is pollen stores. Without stores of pollen adult bees become weak and there is little to feed the winter brood or available for the spring build up. As an added bonus, bees in pollen or protein rich hives live longer, sometimes as much as 15 days longer. This adds to the overall hive health and the ability to produce and care for more bees both in winter and at spring build-up.

How much pollen or patties do you need?

As a rule of thumb, one kilogram of pollen is needed for every one kilogram of bees (9,000 - 10,000 bees). Near the same amount is needed in patties. Once you start supplying patties you must continue until natural pollen are available or the hive will decline and/or collapse.

Where to place your pollen substitute patties.

In early spring, remove hive cover and smoke the bees down below the top bars. The patty, flattened into a cake about 1.5 cm thick, should be placed on the top bars directly over the centre of the cluster with wax paper up.

How to use the pollen patty.

The top of the cake must be covered with waxed paper to prevent dehydration and hardening of the patty.

Feeding patties at seven to ten day intervals is generally satisfactory.

Note: When natural pollen are available and the weather is suitable for foraging, the colony will not use the pollen substitute patties. However, in early spring and during any dearth periods, pollen supplements and substitutes will be readily taken up by the bees.



Management Tip!

How much patty each hive consumes is a good indicator of how well the hive is doing compared to the rest. Queenless or weak hives will eat much less of their patties, and a beekeeper can therefore easily decide which hives in the apiary to work on and which to leave alone, just by looking at the patties after a week or two.