

Beekeeping in Coastal California Review

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Published in BCA Electronic Journal June 2010

Beekeeping in Coastal California is not your ordinary bee book. It has the details of how and why to be sure but it also provides great insight into a year-round varroa management plan and a great monthly planning guide (which is indicated by title continuation *With a Monthly Tutorial and Varroa Management Program*). It is a book to replace all the other bee books for beekeepers who do not have a winter and who are facing colonization by Africanized bee stock.

Author Jeremy Rose is a relatively new beekeeper but brings great insight to his 4 years of Coastal beekeeping experience. He currently maintains about 300 colonies while he is full time student working on MS degree in food science. He became interested in beekeeping after becoming involved in a University Beekeeping project of CA Polytechnic University in San Luis Obispo. Like virtually all larger beekeepers in the western (and increasingly in mid-western and even eastern states), Jeremy moves bees to almond pollination to supplement his income from honey.

Coastal California enjoys a unique Mediterranean climate. Honey bees must survive a hot summer and stressful fall but do not need to be winterized. It is a unique area characterized by a bi-modal nectar flow (two peak flows) with first surplus coming from introduced Eucalyptus. The text features excellent photographs that illustrate important points and is spectacular in including over 85 bee plant photos, almost all including a foraging bee for size reference.

In this coastal climate, Varroa mites need year-round attention and Jeremy details a reasoned IPM approach that emphasizes breeding from survivor stock and drone brood removal. Coastal beekeepers have difficulty finding suitable locations for larger colony numbers with human population pressures and the defensive nature of Africanized bees. He is thus describing beekeeping in areas besides just Coastal California...beekeepers in other areas may not use all the information in this book but they will profit from this book nevertheless.

Beekeeping in Coastal California is published by The CA Bee Company, P.O. Box 14626, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405 (www.californiabeecompany.com) Tel: 805-540-4502 \$31.95 + tax & shipping through Amazon.com