

First Year Activities

(con't)



7. Your First Winter

- Prepare hives for winter if you haven't already
- Prepare & Repair your equipment
- Join us for our MVBA Holiday Party!

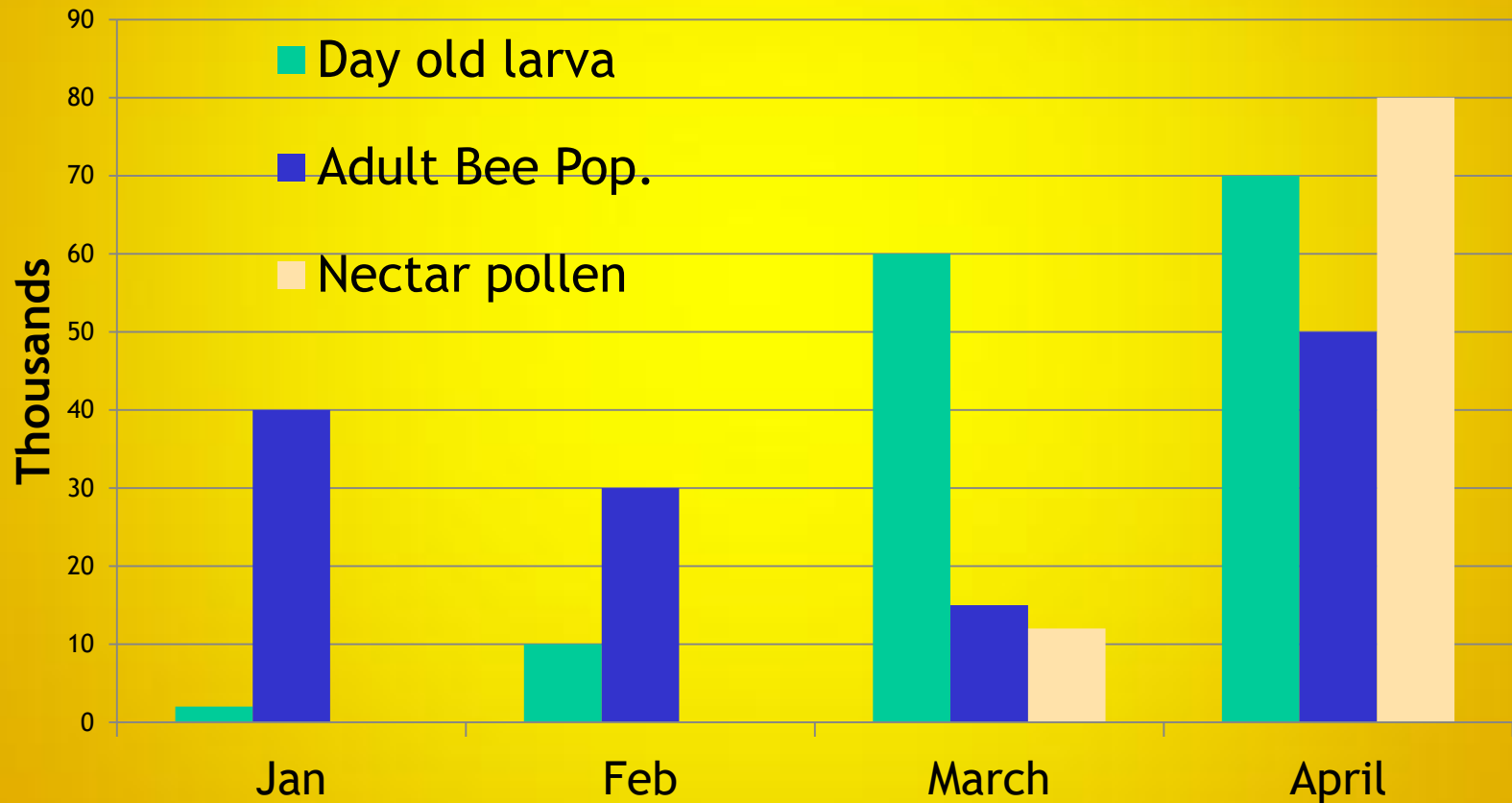


What Happens in Winter?



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- In New England queens begin laying in late January and you will find small patches of capped brood in February.
 - This growth increases in March and April.
 - The following chart is based on an ideal colony entering January with a population of 40,000 bees.

Hive Growth in Winter - Spring



Getting Ready for your 2nd Spring!



- Spring management really began last fall.
 - We put our entrance guards on our hives
 - We made sure our hive had enough honey surplus for the bees to survive the winter.
 - We provided upper ventilation
 - We provided a wind break for the hive.
 - And we treated for mites.

Your “2nd Spring”



Spring (2019)

- Avoid Late Winter - early spring starvation (25% lost)

Farmers Warning

“On the first of February, a farmer should still have on hand half of his winter’s firewood and half of his winter’s hay

Beekeepers Take Heed!

“On the first of February, a colony should still have on hand **half** of its winter stores

Your “First Spring”



Spring (2019)

- Avoid Late Winter - early spring starvation (25% lost)
- Begin Routine hive inspection
- Reverse Supers when first dandelions appear
- Pollen supplement - at first signs of pollen
- Replace old comb - 2 frames every year
- Come to our Intermediate Course

