

Can you see Eggs?

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Are you able to see honeybee eggs? In order to efficiently manage your honeybee colonies it is vital to find and see eggs during all inspections. Finding a queen is fun. It does not help you become a better beekeeper AND ITS NOT NECESSARY. You still need to see eggs whether you see the queen or not. Many beekeepers waste an inordinate amount of time and stress the bees while looking for 1 queen in 60,000 workers. When you see eggs, you know the colony was queen rite within the last 3 days. Early detection of queenlessness is vital to a growing and thriving hive and will reduce additional future problems.

To see eggs you need the following:

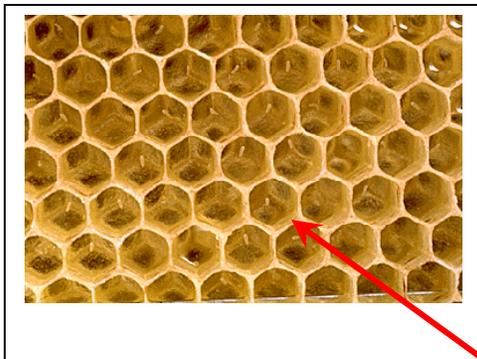
1. Good vision
2. The sun high in the sky providing DIRECT sunlight, no shade

Things that hinder a beekeeper's ability to see eggs:

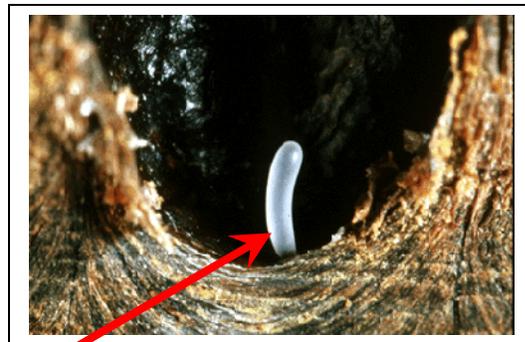
1. Poor eyesight or sunlight or shade
2. A veil over your face – the veil makes it tough to see eggs. A member of our club cut the screen on the front of his veil and stitched a piece of clear plastic in its place. He now has excellent vision.
3. Looking in the wrong areas of hive or cell

To see eggs, when the sun is high in the sky, position yourself so the sun is behind you. Begin working the colony and when you find a frame with open brood, hold the frame away from your body just above your waist. The sun should be shining over your shoulder and fully illuminating the frame and the INTERIOR OF THE CELLS of the frame you are holding. Look into the deepest part of the cell at its very tip. Slowly rotate the frame to focus your eyes and permit illumination to the very deepest portion. If you do not see an egg, look in additional cells. Eggs are white, shaped like a grain of rice but much smaller. You should look toward the edges of the brood ring and in numerous cells. If you find eggs, you know queen was alive within the last 72 hours. If no eggs are seen, continue to look on additional frames and areas of the brood chamber. You can also make a cell wider with the edge of your hive tool until you get better at seeing eggs.

TOP VIEW



SIDE VIEW



Pictures from MAAREC web site

EGGS