

# THE BACH BIODYNAMIC RESEARCH AND PLANTING CALENDAR



2025

Welcome to the 2025 edition of the Bach Biodynamic Research and Planting calendar. This is twelfth year of this calendar, and over this time I have conducted dozens of research trials with the aim of exploring the best planting times to sow seeds based on biodynamic methods. All of the research trials that I have conducted over the years are available on my website at [www.bachbiodynamics.com](http://www.bachbiodynamics.com), free of charge. Through this extensive research, the best planting times are the following: the days leading up to a full moon (ideally two days before a full moon); for annual crops when either Mercury or Venus are in an ascending phase; and in the days before or on perigee (when the moon is closest to the earth). The inverse is also true- planting close to the new moon, or when the planets are in descending phases, or when the moon is furthest from the earth at apogee are not favourable times. The best planting times are when more than one of these stellar events are occurring at the same time. For example, superior planting times occur two to four days before a full moon, when the moon is close to perigee, and, in the case of annual crops, when one or both Mercury and Venus are in an ascending phase, although this perfect planting time does not always occur in any given planting year. All favourable planting times are indicated in the calendar, and best planting days for any given month are in yellow. My research has repeatedly demonstrated that planting on beneficial days here indicated can increase yields between ten and fifteen percent over planting during unfavourable times. The research in this calendar is based on indications given in a series of lectures on agriculture by Rudolf Steiner in 1923. Steiner's lectures are available, free of charge, at the Rudolf Steiner archive at this link: [GA 327. The Agriculture Course \(1938\) - Rudolf Steiner Archive](#).

It should also be mentioned that this calendar does not follow the predominant biodynamic planting calendar methodology developed by Maria Thun. Most biodynamic, if not all other biodynamic planting calendars, follow the Thun method, where the position of the moon relative to the constellations of the zodiac is used. It is my belief, through the comprehensive research that I and others have conducted, that the Thun method is an ineffectual method of planting, and is in many respects, is the antithesis of the indications given by Rudolf Steiner. For example, the synodic phases of the moon (where the moon passes through new and

# JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mercury- Ascending SH Jan 1- Jan15 (descending in NH)	Venus ascending NH Jan 1-Mar 9 (descending in SH)	Mar ascending NH Jan 1-Feb 12 (descending in SH)	1 Jupiter ascending in SH Jan 1-Jan 29 (descending in NH)	2 Saturn ascending NH Jan 1-Jul 7 (descending in SH)	3	4
5	6 Jan 6-7 Good planting SH, fair NH	7 Perigee- 15:36	8	9	10 Jan 10-13 Good planting days SH, fair NH	11
12	13 Full Moon-18:28	14	15	16 Mercury ascending NH Jan16-Mar 17 (descending in SH)	17	18
19	20 Apogee-20:56	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 New Moon-04:37 Jupiter ascending in NH Jan 29-Jun 14 (descending in SH)	30	31 Fair planting days Mar-31-Feb 1 NH and SH	

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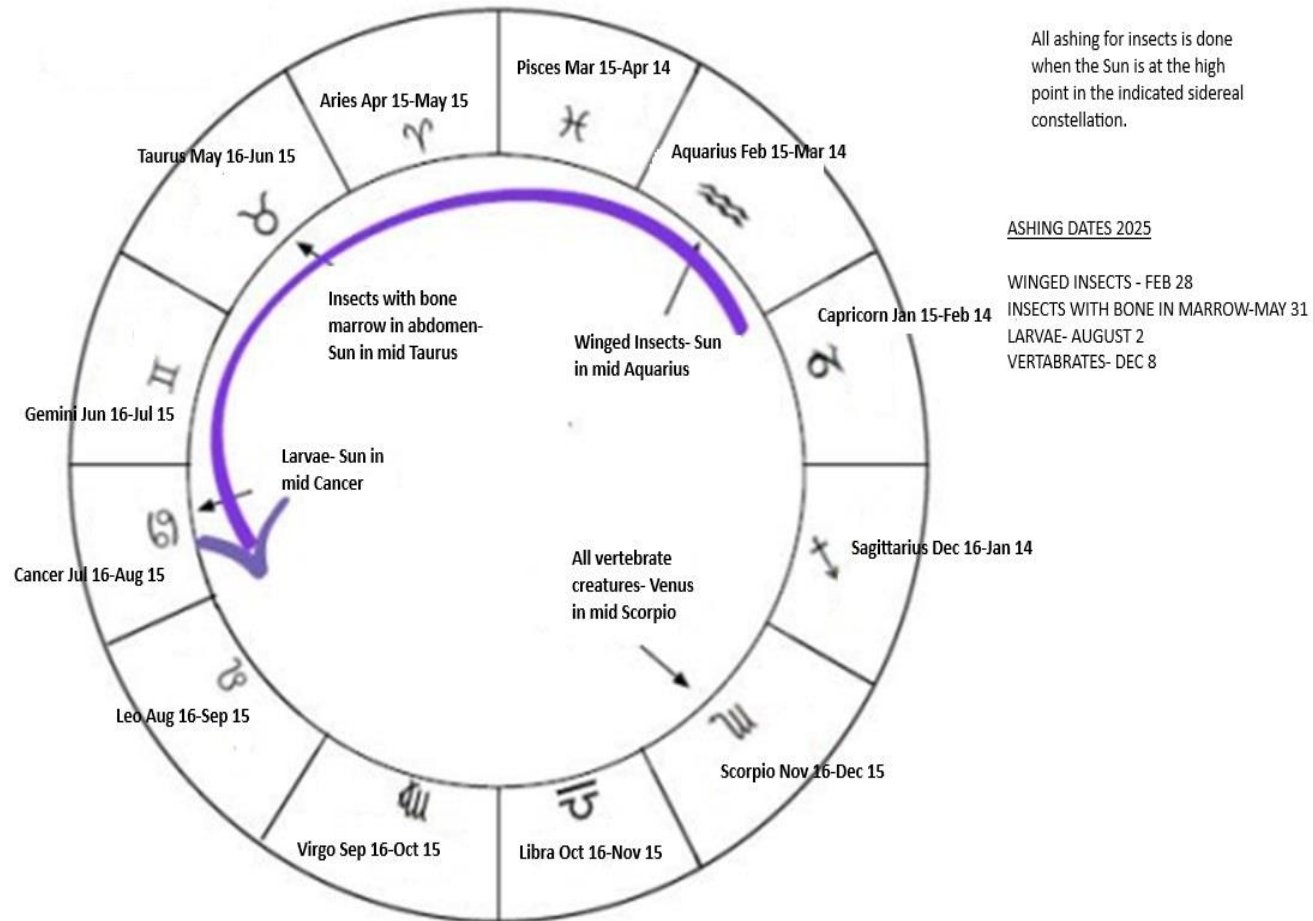
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full moon phases over a twenty-eight day period) is not considered to be of significance using Thun methodology, where it is of paramount importance according to Steiner. Conversely, Steiner indicated the growth of plants is not affected by the zodiac in any way, where this is the predominant factor used in Thun calendars. I have discussed this issue at length throughout the years of this calendar, and in my 2024 edition I have given a detailed description of the difference between the Steiner and Thun methodologies, which can be found at the following link: [2024\\_bachbiodynamic\\_planting\\_calendar\\_moon\\_steiner\\_biodynamic\\_thun\\_zodiac.pdf](https://www.jbbach363.com/2024_bachbiodynamic_planting_calendar_moon_steiner_biodynamic_thun_zodiac.pdf). There is, unfortunately, scant research that has been conducted by the authors of Thun style calendars. The Thun method of planting, based on research I have conducted, must be considered as a spiritual error that must be overcome to ensure the health and viability of the Biodynamic agricultural method, which is essential for the long term healing of the earth and for the production truly healthy food. It is my sincere hope that there will be the willingness for members of the biodynamic community to work and conduct research collaboratively so that this important issue can be addressed and resolved through research carried out by large groups of people. This has always been the goal of this calendar, and anyone who would like to work with me and conduct planting trials would be warmly welcomed. I can be contacted at [jbbach363@gmail.com](mailto:jbbach363@gmail.com).

This year's calendar research will pivot from best sowing times to beekeeping. Specifically, a new, chemical free, treatment to combat varroa mite using a process called ashing will here be discussed. General principles of biodynamic beekeeping were discussed at length in my 2023 calendar, which can be accessed here: [bach\\_biodynamic\\_planting\\_calendar\\_2023\\_steiner\\_organic\\_moon\\_almanac.pdf](https://www.jbbach363.com/bach_biodynamic_planting_calendar_2023_steiner_organic_moon_almanac.pdf). I have also written an extensive paper outlining the issues currently affecting honeybees which can be accessed here: [biodynamic\\_beekeeping\\_paper\\_2023.pdf](https://www.jbbach363.com/biodynamic_beekeeping_paper_2023.pdf). As is the case with this planting calendar, the approach outlined here in regard to developing healthy honeybees and reversing their rapid decline is based on a series of lectures given by Rudolf Steiner in 1923, some eight months after his lectures on the biodynamic approach to agriculture. It should be noted that Steiner was not connected with agriculture or honeybees in particular, but was an Initiate- one who could see into the spiritual world. He gave thousands of lectures throughout his life, covering a diverse range of

## 2025 ASHING DATES



All ashing for insects is done when the Sun is at the high point in the indicated sidereal constellation.

### ASHING DATES 2025

WINGED INSECTS - FEB 28  
 INSECTS WITH BONE IN MARROW-MAY 31  
 LARVAE- AUGUST 2  
 VERTABRATES- DEC 8

**Varroa ashing dates:**  
 February 28 (Aquarius)  
 March 30- (Pisces)  
 April 30 (Aries)  
 May 31 (Taurus)  
 July 1 (Gemini)  
 August 2 (Cancer)

# FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Perigee-18:44
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Good planting days NH and SH Feb -9-12	10	11	12 Full Moon- 05:54 Mars ascending SH Feb 13-Dec 17 (descending in NH)	13	14	15
16	17 Apogee-17:12	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 New Moon-16:47	28 Ash winged insects	□

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topics, including, but not limited to, Christianity, education, medicine, agriculture, architecture, economics, and the true history of the world and the spiritual beings who work behind all events that occur in it. Steiner was graced with the gift of seeing and conversing with the spiritual beings of the world and receiving information from them in regard to the future direction that humanity must take if it is not to fall into decline and catastrophe. The clairvoyance of previous civilizations- of ancient Greece, Egypt and India, was, through the wisdom and direction of the spiritual world, closed off to modern humanity. This was done in order for humanity to develop a sense of individuality, instead of living in a group of tribal consciousness, as was the case in the past. This development of individuality has now been achieved, and the gates of the spiritual world, closed to humanity for thousands of years, are now slowly creaking open again. Steiner stands as a forerunner to this re-spiritualisation of humanity, showing the path that the human being must again take, in full freedom and individual consciousness, to again peer into and actively participate in the affairs of the spiritual world. This was the mission of Rudolf Steiner, and part of that mission was to give true insight into the nature of the honeybee. One of the most important concepts that must be understood regarding the nature of the honeybee is that each colony is guided by a fully conscious spiritual being. The beehive can be said to be an expression of this being. Steiner says the following:

The group soul of a beehive is a very high level being .... It is of such a high development that you might almost say it is cosmically precious. It has attained a level of evolutionary development that human beings will later reach in the Venus cycle, which follows the completion of the current Earth cycle. We must view it as we would a precious child; it stands apart from lines of the normal evolutionary progress that most animals have followed (p. 176)<sup>1</sup>. To go into the different long planetary epochs of humanity mentioned in this quote would go beyond the scope of this essay- readers can find more information regarding this in Steiner's book [An Outline of Occult Science](#), available for free at: [Contents - Occult Science \(1972\) - Rudolf Steiner Archive](#). The essential point of this quote in relation to beekeeping is that

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<sup>1</sup> All of the quotes given here from the beekeeping lectures of Rudolf Steiner are from the book [Bees; Lectures by Rudolf Steiner](#), Rudolf Steiner, Anthroposophic Press, Gt. Barrington, MA, 1998.

# MARCH

SUNDAY                      MONDAY                      TUESDAY                      WEDNESDAY                      THURSDAY                      FRIDAY                      SATURDAY

						1 Perigee-13:20
2	3	4	5	6	7 March 7-9 Fair planting days NH and SH	8
9	10 Venus Ascending in SH Mar 10-Apr 26 (descending in NH)	11 No plant days Mar 11-13 lunar eclipse (total) - North America,	12 South America, Europe, Australia	13 Full Moon-22:56 Total lunar eclipse- 19:57 pst	14	15
16	17 Apogee-08:38	18 Mercury ascending SH Mar 18-Apr 13 (descending in NH)	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 Perigee-21:27 New Moon-03:00
30	31					

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the honeybee colony is guided by a fully conscious, highly developed spiritual being, that has a consciousness that human beings will only attain in the distant future. To carry this concept further, we must now examine the process of artificial queen breeding, also known as grafting, where honeybee queens are created. The information below is taken from my 2022 biodynamic bee essay, referred and linked to above:

Each individual colony of honeybees acts with a high level of consciousness and intelligence, and behind each colony there is the working of a spiritual being that acts consciously to carry out the activities of the hive in the earthly realm. This is of immense importance, and sheds light on statements Steiner made regarding the practice of queen breeding. During these lectures, several discussions took place regarding the practice of queen breeding with a beekeeper named Muller, who was not an anthroposophist, but attended the lectures. Muller gave a lecture on beekeeping to an anthroposophical audience several weeks (10 Nov 1923) prior to the lectures given by Steiner, and in this lecture, spoke of artificially breeding queens. Immediately following the lecture, with the audience still present, the following dialogue took place between Steiner and Muller:

Dr. Steiner: "I've just a few comments to make, namely in regard to the cause of continuous fertility in bees [a queen bee needs only to mate once, and then can lay fertile eggs, up to several thousand per day, for the rest of her life]. You may have already noticed from Mr. Muller's comments that there is a problem connected to the artificial breeding of queen bees. It might be interesting to ask Mr. Muller if he thinks this method holds much promise for the future."

Mr. Muller: "Yes, I hold this method in high regards for the most part. If you leave a colony up to its own devices, and you don't tend it carefully, it might happen that the whole colony will deteriorate. The bad qualities will come through more and more, and whatever was good before is lost".

Dr. Steiner: "Since when have bees been bred artificially?"

Mr. Muller: "For about twelve to fifteen years."

Dr. Steiner: "Next time [the following lecture] we'll investigate more thoroughly the matter of breeding of bees, and we'll see that what proves to be an extraordinarily favourable measure upon which something is based today may appear to be good, but that a century from now all breeding of bees would cease if only artificially produced bees were used. We want to be able to see how that which is so wonderfully favourable can change in such a way that it can, in time gradually destroy whatever was positive in this procedure" (p. 177-8).

# APRIL

SUNDAY
MONDAY
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Apr 9-11 Fair planting days NH, good SH	10	11	12 Full Moon-16:24
13 Apogee- 14:49	14 Mercury ascending in NH Apr 14-Jun12 (descending in SH)	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Perigee- 10:16 New Moon-11:33 Venus ascending NH Apr 27-Aug 5 (descending in SH)	28	29	30			

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Further comments by Steiner, this time on 5 Dec 1923 further emphasizes and clarifies his meaning. Discussions had taken place between Muller and others between the lecture mentioned above and the next lecture given by Steiner. A moderator collected questions and comments for Steiner which were presented before his next lecture began. Part of that summary went as follows:

“Mr. Muller cannot comprehend that the bee colonies may die out in eighty or one hundred years. He simply cannot understand Dr. Steiner can say that, in fifty or one hundred years, artificial breeding can cause serious problems for the bee colonies to which it has been applied” (pp 66-7).

Steiner answered as follows:

“This is what I mean when I say that from the conditions of beekeeping today, you cannot draw conclusions as to what artificial methods of beekeeping signify, or do not signify. One must think how it will be 50,60, or 100 years hence! It is quite comprehensible that someone should say today- I do not understand how this will be quite different in 50,60, or 100-years’ time- this is quite comprehensible. But it must be recognized that there is a great difference in whether one allows nature to take free course, or whether one brings artificial methods into the matter. I do not want to protest against what Herr Muller has said. It is quite correct. Today one cannot as yet confirm these things; one must wait for this. We will discuss it together in a 100 years’ time, Herr Muller, and see what your opinion is then. It is a question that cannot be decided at the moment” (p. 66-7).

The practice of artificially grafting queens was refined by Gilbert M. Doolittle in the mid-1800s, and came into widespread practice in America around the turn of the century with the publication of his book *Scientific Queen Rearing* in 1889. In this method, known as the Doolittle Method, four day-old worker bee larvae, which were laid in horizontal hexagonal worker cells by the queen, are transferred (grafted) into vertical queen cups, which mimic the form and size of a naturally made queen cell. Sometimes a little royal jelly is placed in the cup with the larvae. These eggs are then placed in a small colony of bees in which the queen has been removed. The worker bees soon detect that the queen is not present (the queen emits a powerful pheromone) and begin at once to tend to the vertical larvae that are present in the hive and appear as queen cells. In this way, a beekeeper can produce dozens or even hundreds of queens within a short period of time, as the whole procedure, including the four-day development of the larvae is completed in the seventeen day incubation period for a queen bee. This method has tremendous advantages for beekeepers and is the foundation upon which modern beekeeping rests. Beekeepers don’t have to wait for the colony to make its own queens, which it does when it is preparing to divide through swarming, or when a queen is old and failing and needs to be replaced (known as supersedure). Newly grafted queens can be used to make many new colonies, by placing each of the new queens into a new hive with two or three pounds of worker bees.

Steiner’s prediction has proved to be remarkably accurate, with yearly honeybee losses increasing over the last two decades. It is now estimated that annual colony losses are exceeding forty percent and higher in many areas of the world, compared with

# MAY

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 May 9-12 Good planting days NH, fair SH	10 Apogee-16:50
11	12 Full Moon-08:58	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Perigee-17:38	26 New Moon-19:04	27	28	29	30	31 Ash insects with bone marrow in abdomen (beetles, grasshoppers)

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traditional average colony loss rates of ten percent or less in the past. A recent video by a large scale California beekeeper has predicted, based on his discussions with beekeepers across the United States, that losses over the 2024-25 winter season may be the highest yet recorded. This discussion can be viewed on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/DI4SBYvV9z8>. From what has been discussed in this paper it is clear that the most important issue today regarding the decline of the honeybee is related to the issue of queen breeding. The queens that are naturally produced by the queen at her choosing must be considered as true queens, while those produced artificially through grafting cannot be considered to be true queens. Steiner expressed it as follows:

In the beehive there simply is this tendency for bees to be able to change a would-be worker into an egg-laying queen by applying a special method of feeding it. This is a type of illness. The beehive is a single entity. In this case the entire beehive is sick. It would be just like force-feeding a goose to fatten it.... If you make a worker into a queen, then this queen is, in reality, an overly healthy worker, but the entire beehive should be considered ill. (p. 114-5).

In nature, bees will only create a queen from a worker egg in a state of emergency, where the queen has unexpectedly died (lost during its virgin mating flight, or accidentally killed by a beekeeper, for example). It is impossible today to order a naturally reared queen- all queens produced and sold today commercially are artificially grafted, and therefore must be considered as pseudo-queens, not really true queens. Steiner speaks of how the queen intentionally lays queen eggs and worker eggs. This again relates to the conscious, deliberate actions of the spiritual being associated with each colony. Turning a worker egg into a queen has slowly degraded honeybees over the last century, to the point where they are so weak that they are less able to resist disease and cold weather, the result being that mortality rates have been climbing rapidly over the last several decades. It is clear that breeding natural queens is the single most important initiative that the beekeeper today can undertake in order to increase the overall health of honeybees. Unfortunately, there is not understanding of this in the field of beekeeping. Many beekeepers and researchers believe that the opposite is true- that we must artificially breed bees so that we can breed for specific traits that are found in specific breeds of queens, or in individual queens that exhibit preferred traits (ability to survive cold weather, varroa infestations, gentle behaviour,

# JUNE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Apogee- 02:44 Jun 7-10 Good planting days NH, fair SH
8	9	10 Full Moon-23:46	11	12 Mercury ascending in SH Jun 13-Jul 25 (descending in NH)	13	14
15 Jupiter ascending in SH Jun 15-Nov 8 (descending in NH)	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Perigee-20:44 New Moon- 02:34	25	26	27	28
29	30					

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large honey yields, etc.). This same sentiment was expressed a century ago by Mr. Muller in the above quote and is still predominant today. The notion that there is a wisdom in the actions of a queen as to when she lays eggs meant to be queens would be seen as folly in the eyes of many beekeepers and researchers today (a detailed discussion of the practical aspects of creating natural queens is given in the 2023 edition of this calendar, mentioned and linked above).

### **Varroa Mite and the Decline of the Honeybee**

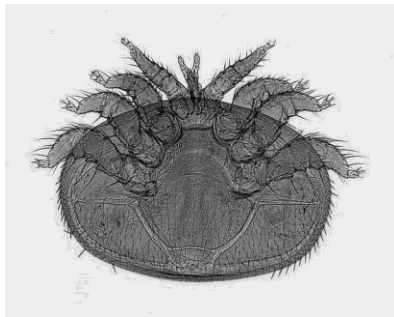


Figure 1 *Varroa Destructor*

For the majority of those involved in the beekeeping industry, the belief is that the true culprit that has contributed to the decline of the honeybee is the introduction of the mite varroa destructor into European (*Apis Mellifera*) honeybee populations in the 1980s. This mite came from Asia and was found on the Asian honeybee, closely related to the European honeybee. The mite was not significantly detrimental to Asian honeybees, as this species exhibits hygienic behaviour, where mites are removed from the backs of bees by other bees within the colony, thus preventing the development of catastrophic mite loads that quickly develop in European honeybee populations.

The varroa mite punctures the exoskeleton of the honeybee and then sucks haemolymph (the equivalent of bee blood) from the bee as its source of nutrition. This wound remains open, and the mite moves from bee to bee, eventually returning to bees it as already punctured and feeds again. In addition to the physical damage caused by the Varroa mite, a growing number of viruses (now over twenty) are carried by the varroa mite and are introduced into honeybees through its puncturing and feeding behaviour. The following list contains the main viruses that are found in honeybee populations: Kashmir Bee Virus, Israeli Acute Paralysis Virus, Chronic Paralysis Virus, Deformed Wing Virus, Black Wing Queen Virus. All of these viruses are fatal to bee colonies if they reach chronic levels and, as a result, control of Varroa populations is essential to colony survival. One of the main areas of focus for researchers is to develop the same hygienic behaviour found in Asian honeybees in their European cousins. So far, over twenty years

# JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4 Apogee-18:30	5
6	7 Jul 7-10 Good planting days NH and SH	8 Saturn ascending in SH Jul 8- Nov 24 (descending in NH)	9	10 Full Moon-12:39	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Jul 19-20 good planting days NH and SH
20 Perigee-05:54	21	22	23	24 New Moon-11:12	25	26 Mercury ascending in NH Jul 26-Aug 20 (descending in SH)
27	28	29	30	31		

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of effort has been fruitless. This effort to develop hygienic strains of bees is, of course, attempted through the process of grafting queens from what are considered strong colonies that may be in the early stages of showing hygienic behaviour. From what has been discussed above, it is clear why these efforts have failed- grafting only creates weak pseudo queens, and to expect these queens to become stronger and develop new behaviours is not realistic.

The path to again developing strong and healthy honeybees must be to create lineages of natural queens, laid by the queen at her time of choosing. This process is made more difficult by the weak state of the honeybee coupled with the never ending battle that the beekeeper has with the varroa mite. A main tenant of homeopathic medicine is that a weak organism attracts disease to itself. When viewed in this light, the relationship to the diseases carried by the varroa mite and the weak state of the honeybee caused by over a century of artificial breeding becomes clear. When viewed with a spiritual understanding of the world, the arrival of the varroa mite and the weakening state if the honeybee is interlinked- there is no such thing as chance or coincidence when the world is viewed in its true light as an expression of spiritual beings acting in full consciousness and wisdom. The introduction of Varroa and the decline of honeybee health due to queen breeding are two sides of the same coin, and there is a message being sent by the spiritual world to humanity in the plight of the honeybee, and where the spiritual world sends a problem to be solved, it also gives a solution to that problem. It is the task of humanity to discover this solution and implement it to not just the honeybee but to a clearer understanding of the true nature of the world<sup>2</sup>. The current treatment options of the Varroa mite must be considered as a temporary solution, until honeybee populations are made strong again through natural queen breeding. To combat the Varroa mite, the beekeeper must use treatments that cause disruption to the colony. Oxalic and formic acid are natural acids that occur widely in nature and are very effective in killing and reducing Varroa mite populations. These natural acids, were, interestingly, spoken of at

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<sup>2</sup> There is a broader message being sent by the spiritual world that goes beyond the plight of the honeybee. The clairvoyant vision that ancient humanity once possessed, the result of which was the ancient stories, sagas, myths and religions of humanity has been closed to humanity for the last three millennia. This vision is now being restored to humanity, and the gates of the spiritual world are again opening. To discuss this would be to go beyond the scope of this essay, by interested readers can study Steiners book [Knowledge of the Higher Worlds and its Attainment](#) available here: [Contents - Knowledge of Higher Worlds and its Attainment \(1947\) - Rudolf Steiner Archive](#)

# AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Apogee-12:38	2 Ash larvae
3	4	5	6 Venus ascending SH Aug 6-Dec 28 (descending in NH)	7	8 Good planting days NH and SH Aug 8-10	9
10 Full Moon-23:57	11	12	13 Good planting days NH and SH Aug 13-14	14 Perigee-10:02	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Mercury ascending in SH Aug 21-Nov 5 (descending in NH)	22 New Moon-22:07	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Apogee-07:35	30
31						

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length by Steiner in his beekeeping lectures, where he described their importance in nature and in human health in general. But to combat the varroa mite they are used in a very concentrated form which is disruptive to the colony and often kills brood (bee larvae) and queens. What will now be discussed is a potential method to treat varroa mite which I will be conducting in all of my colonies this year, which will have none of the negative consequences of current varroa treatments.

The process which I will be utilising to treat varroa mite was given by Steiner in his lectures on agriculture mentioned above. This treatment is used to combat garden pests like grasshoppers or mice and was called by Steiner 'ashing'. This process has been described in this calendar many times, but it has not been applied to the treatment of Varroa mite. The zodiacal chart that is used to carry out the ashing of insects is on page five of this calendar. The concept of ashing is to create an environment in which a pest in a given area will seek to flee due to the discomfort that it causes for the pest in question. A key understanding of all nature as outlined by Steiner many times in his anthroposophical lecturing was the different 'bodies' associated with all life and matter on earth and in the cosmos. These descriptions can also be found in Buddhism, and Steiner uses Buddhist terminology to describe them. The mineral or stone consists of only its mineral or physical body and is therefore lifeless. The plant consists of not only a physical body, but also an etheric or life body, which gives the plant life and its ability to grow, assimilate minerals from the earth, and to create seeds. The animal consists of physical, etheric and astral body. The astral body of the animal sets it above the plant as it allows the animal to move about on the earth, gives the animal its instinctual behaviour, and allows higher animals to feel pain and suffering. The human being consists of physical, etheric, and astral bodies, but to this must also be added the ego, which makes us human- it allows us to think, reason, behave morally (or immorally), and above all gives us self consciousness. The process of ashing is designed to create anti-life (etheric) forces in the environment of the insect in question. For example, if we wish to deter grasshoppers in our garden, we collect a small number of grasshoppers and burn them in a small fire at the time of the proper zodiacal constellation. These ashes are then spread over our garden to deter grasshoppers from entering. Water brings life forces from the etheric world into the physical world- a seed cannot germinate without water. Conversely, fire brings death forces into the etheric element. Etheric forces are contained in the solar system, and the astral forces of the animal are in the stars that make up the zodiac. The

# SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5 No plant days Sept 5-7 total lunar eclipse. Africa, Asia, Russia,	6 Europe, Australia
7 Full Moon-10:11 Total Lunar eclipse 07:28 pst	8	9 Sep 9-10 Fair planting days NH and SH	10 Perigee-04:11	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 New Moon-11:55	22	23	24	25	26 Apogee-01:47	27
28	29	30				

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etheric forces that are needed to develop different animals are shaped and moulded for that specific animal through the astral forces that stream in from the Zodiac. The correct ashing times for different insects were indicated by Steiner in his agricultural lectures and are indicated in the chart on page 5. These times are when the Sun enters into the mid-point of the following constellations: Winged insects are ashed at the end of February when the Sun is in mid Aquarius<sup>3</sup>, insects with bone marrow are ashed at the end of May when the Sun is in mid-Taurus, and larvae are ashed at the beginning of August when the Sun is in mid-Cancer. All vertebrate animals (animals with a spine) are ashed when Venus is in mid-Scorpio. This date is variable, and in 2025 occurs on December 8<sup>th</sup>. This brings about the question 'what about animals that fall into more than one of the groups mentioned?'. For example, a grasshopper is a winged insects and also has what can be described as marrow in its abdomen. We then simply ash for both of these aspects.

Grasshoppers are mentioned because, in the summer of 2023 we experienced an enormous influx of grasshoppers on our farm. The numbers were so large that all of our leafy crops in the garden were lost unless they were netted, and all of the leaves on our fruit trees were eaten. The fruit trees had to be caged in mesh, and almost half of them died over the winter, as they could not store the necessary sugars in their roots due to the defoliation caused by the grasshoppers. As a result, I collected about two large freezer bags of grasshoppers in the fall and placed them in the freezer. I decided to carry out four separate ashings- one in February (Aquarius), one in March (Pisces), one in April (Aries), and one in May (Taurus), all at the mid sign of each constellation. The grasshoppers were burned in a concrete bowl (mortar), about a litre in volume, along with fir kindling. After burning the wood and grasshoppers to ash, they were ground into dust using a small rock. The ash was then spread about the garden and surrounding area after each ashing. The next year the grasshopper population was significantly decreased. None of the fruit trees or leaf crops in the garden were significantly damaged. Grasshoppers were present, but in much smaller numbers. We also have had, in the past,

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<sup>3</sup> The astrological signs here given are based on the Sidereal zodiac, which shows the actual positions of the planets and the Sun as they occur at sunrise in the eastern horizon. The Tropical zodiac is the position of the planets and the Sun from over 2500 years ago. The Sun and planets have moved backwards since that time through the zodiac (around 30 degrees), and as such the tropical zodiac is no longer valid in this type of work.

# OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3 Oct 3-8 Excellent planting days SH, good NH	4
5	6 Full Moon-19:49	7	8 Perigee-04:37	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 New Moon-04:26	22	23 Apogee-15:32	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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significant mice problems, so I also ashed for mice (by burning the skins of several mice caught in traps, as indicated by Steiner) and also noticed a significant reduction of mice in the barn and in my car, as witnessed by traps remaining baited but empty for days on end, where previously mice were caught on an almost daily basis. I realize the evidence that I present here is anecdotal- I do not have numerical or statistical baseline data. We also had a cool spring in 2024 which could have reduced the number of hatching grasshopper eggs. Having said this, I do believe ashing did significantly reduce the populations of grasshoppers and mice. Also, the effectiveness of ashing may be long lasting- some have speculated perhaps up to seven years, based on some of Steiner's indications.

**Varroa ashing dates:**

February 28 (Aquarius)  
March 30- (Pisces)  
April 30 (Aries)  
May 31 (Taurus)  
July 1 (Gemini)  
August 2 (Cancer)

Because of this experience, I will be ashing varroa mite this spring and summer and sprinkling the contents into each of my colonies. I will conduct a total of six ashings on the dates indicated on the table. Leo the lion was not named by the ancients in a meaningless way- the forces in Leo are those that specifically help to mould the etheric forces of all cats. The same can be said of Aries (the Ram), and Taurus (the bull). For this reason, I want to ash all the way to the August ashing date of Cancer the crab, simply because the varroa mite looks very much like a small crab. I treated for Varroa last fall using formic acid, as I usually do, and collected the varroa mites from the bottom boards of each colony. In total, I have collected several hundred

varroa and will divide these up into six equal amounts for each ashing date. The procedure will be the same as was for the grasshoppers and mice, but on a much smaller scale. My goal is to have about a tablespoon of ashed material, containing perhaps 25 or ashed varroa mite for each ashing. This tablespoon will be divided into twelve (my current number of colonies) and sprinkled onto the top bars of each hive, in the centre of the colony where brood is reared and varroa mites are found. In addition to the potential benefit of reducing varroa numbers, I am also curious as to whether the viruses within the varroa mite will also in some way be ashed in this process. Another benefit that I hope emerges will be a reduction in the use of harsh but necessary varroa treatments like oxalic and formic acid. I have, for the past several years, been able to keep the number of colonies in my small apiary at about the same level, without having to buy new bees to replenish lost colonies. This has been a process where I increase my numbers from making splits from extra naturally produced queen cells or from swarms.

# NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Nov 1-5 Superior planting days SH, Good NH
2	3	4	5 Perigee-14:30 Full Moon-05:20	6 Mercury ascending in NH Nov 6-Dec 2 (descending in SH)	7	8
9 Jupiter ascending in NH Nov 9-end of year (descending in SH)	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Apogee-18:49 New Moon-22:48	20	21	22
23	24	25 Saturn ascending in NH Nov 25- end of year (descending in SH)	26	27	28	29 Dec 29-Jan 4 Superior planting days SH, Good NH
30						

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Last year at one point in the summer I had over 20 colonies but lost five or so new colonies with new queens by using formic acid to combat varroa. It is my hope that through ashing I can more easily increase my colony numbers and not have to use formic acid during the first two months where new queens are developing and are more likely to succumb to conventional varroa treatment. This is a working hypothesis which I will put to the test in 2025 and will report my findings in the 2026 edition of this calendar.

Please feel free to contact me if you would have any questions or would like to collaborate in any of my planting calendar or beekeeping work at [jbbach363@gmail.com](mailto:jbbach363@gmail.com).

Warm Regards, John Bach

# DECEMBER

SUNDAY
MONDAY
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY

	1	2	3 Mercury ascending in SH Dec 3-end of year (descending in NH)	4 Perigee-03:07 Full Moon-15:15	5	6
7	8 Ash vertebrate pests (mice, moles, etc.)	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 Apogee-22:11	17	18 Mar Ascending in NH Dec 18-end of year (descending in SH)	19 New Moon-17:44	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Venus ascending NH Dec 29-end of year (descending in SH)	30	31			

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