

Sugar / Water Ratios for Feeding Bees

Mixing pure cane sugar with water is a common method of feeding bees.

Different ratios are used to promote different targets

1 gallon of water weighs 8 lbs.

Use Very warm water. Be careful not to boil the sugar

1:1 to encourages brood rearing & comb building

1 to 1 mixture of sugar water is equal parts (by weight) of sugar and water 3 gallons = 24 lbs. (54 ½ cups) of sugar to 3 gallons of water 2 gallons = 16 lbs. (32 ½ cups) sugar to 2 gallons of water 1 gallon = 8 lbs. (16 ¼ cups) sugar to 1 gallon of water (128 oz) ½ gallon = 4 lbs. (8 cups) sugar to ½ gallon of water (64 oz) 1 quart = 2 lbs. (4 cups) sugar to 1 quart of water (32 oz) 1 pint = 1 lbs. (2 cups) sugar to 1 pint of water (16 oz)

2:1 to encourages food storage for winter

- 2 to 1 mixture of sugar water is 2 parts of sugar and 1 part of water by weight
- 3 gallons = 48 lbs. (109 cups) of sugar to 3 gallons of water
- 2 gallons = 32 lbs. (65 cups) sugar to 2 gallons of water
- 1 gallon = 16 lbs. (32 ½ cups) sugar to 1 gallon of water (128 oz)
- $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon = 8 lbs. (16 $\frac{1}{4}$ cups) sugar to $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon of water (64 oz)
- 1 quart = 4 lbs. (8 cups) sugar to 1 quart of water (32 oz)
- 1 pint = 2 lbs. (4 cups) sugar to 1 pint of water (16 oz)