

Here are the steps to a hive inspection

Cricket Aldridge. Arizona Backyard Beekeepers

1. Smoke the entrance and under the cover of your hive with 2-3 puffs of smoke.
2. Remove the cover and look to make sure the queen is not there, set it on the ground or lean it up against your hive.
3. OBSERVE how the bees are acting. Are they calmly walking around or are they looking a little crazy?
4. Smoke the top of the frames to cause the bees to move down and then scrape off any comb that has accumulated.
5. Use the hive tool to remove the frame closest to you and inspect it while holding it firmly from the top ends at eye level. The first thing you do is scan the perimeter of the frame and then the center to see if the queen is there. Flip it over and scan again. Once you determine whether or not she is there, then continue to look for the following:
 - **Brood in all stages: eggs, larvae, and capped pupa**
 - **Food stores: honey, nectar, pollen, and bee bread**
 - **Signs of disease, pests or other problems**
 - **Queen cells: note if they are supersedure (center of frame) or swarm (bottom).**
6. Place that frame and the next on a frame rest or leaned upright next to the hive on the ground or stand.
7. Continue gently and slowly prying apart the frames and inspecting as above. Keep the frames together so that you can push them all back in place as a whole so as not to crush the queen or other bees.
8. Replace the first two frames and adjust the spacing so that the two end frames are equidistant from the walls.
9. Remove that box by prying it firmly with your hive tool. Set it on the ground sideways with the frames perpendicular to the ground, or upright on the lid.
10. Continue with the remaining box(es).
11. Make notes of your observations list in 5 as well as anything you want to look at or do the next time you inspect.

Hive Inspection Checklist

Date: _____ Time: _____ Weather: _____

Inspection Details	#	#	#	#	#	Notes
Queen						
Marked						
Unmarked						
Brood						
Eggs						
Larva						
Capped Brood						
Queen Cells						
Supersedure						
Swarm						
Food						
Uncapped Honey						
Capped Honey (# of frames)	#	#	#	#	#	
Pollen						
Pests						
Varroa						
Wax Moths						
Temperament						
Calm						
Aggressive						
Population						
Low						
Thriving						
High						

Apiary Layout

Draw a layout of each of your hives in relation to each other. Use this legend to indicate number and size of boxes. Write Hive # in bottom box.

1

1 Deep

2

2 Deep

3

2 Deep + Super