

Pollen Supplement and Pollen Substitute

A “**Pollen Substitute**” is a material which can serve as a direct substitute for natural pollen sources.

By adding about 10% of pollen the mixture is called “**Pollen Supplement**”.

Pollen Substitute or Pollen Supplement is made in the form of patties. The patties are encased in waxed paper or in plastic bags to try to maintain the moisture. If patties get hard, the bees won't eat them.

Equipment Mixing bowl Weighing scales Mixing spatula, knife or fork Plastic containers Plastic/Polythene paper sheets Vegetable oil	Ingredients - approx 24lb finished weight 15lb Soya Flour (de-fatted or 4 – 8% fat) 5lb Yeast (Brewers) 1-2lb Pollen Mix with:- $\frac{1}{3}$ Water $\frac{1}{3}$ Honey (approx 4lb) $\frac{1}{3}$ Syrup
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Mix the pollen and yeast together and place into the large bucket
Add the Soya Flour and mix (becomes quite stiff to handle)
Pour in liquid until the mix is a soft dough. Not too sloppy with a consistency similar to peanut butter.

Make into 1lb (for hives) & $\frac{1}{2}$ lb (for nucs) patties on sheets of Polythene paper, (which have been coated with vegetable oil), spread out to a thickness of about a quarter of an inch. Smear the upper surface of each patty with a little vegetable oil and they can be stacked for convenience to take them to the apiary without them sticking together too much.

Storage: Seal into plastic containers if not required immediately, and refrigerate for up to 2 weeks; or deep frozen if required later and thawed for 24 hours to room temperature before giving to the bees.

Warning: Foul Brood, Chalk brood and virus diseases can be spread through infected pollen.

How much to feed: Strong colony will take down 1lb pattie in 7/10 days – Nucleus give half as pattie could grow mould after this time.