



# Royal Jelly Harvesting Readiness Checklist

## I. Colony Population & Demographics

- **Nurse Bee Ratio:** Ensure the hive contains at least 50% young nurse bees (aged 5–14 days). These are the only bees capable of secreting the glandular substances required for jelly production.
- **Brood Density:** Confirm that the colony is actively rearing brood. A hive without a strong brood cycle will not be motivated to produce surplus jelly.
- **Queen Health:** Verify the queen is less than 12 months old. A younger, more vigorous queen produces the specific pheromones required to maintain high colony morale and nursing behavior.

## II. Resource Availability

- **Pollen Reserves:** Verify the hive has at least 2 full frames of high-quality pollen. Pollen is the primary protein source required for nurse bees to synthesize royal jelly.
- **Nectar Flow:** Ensure there is an active nectar flow or provide supplemental light syrup (1:1 ratio) to simulate one. Bees rarely produce surplus jelly during a nectar dearth.
- **Water Access:** Confirm that a clean, consistent water source is available within 500 meters of the apiary to prevent dehydration during the high-energy production phase.

## III. Environmental & Operational Conditions

- **Ambient Temperature:** Check that external temperatures are consistently between **65°F (18°C)** and **85°F (29°C)**. Excessive heat forces bees to focus on cooling the hive rather than jelly production.
- **Equipment Sanitation:** Verify all grafting bars, queen cups, and collection tools have been sterilized. Even minor bacterial contamination will cause the harvest to ferment or spoil within hours.
- **Cold Chain Preparedness:** Confirm your storage container is ready in an insulated cooler with ice packs. Royal jelly is highly perishable and



<https://pureroyaljelly.com>

must be kept between **35°F (2°C)** and **41°F (5°C)** immediately upon extraction.

#### **IV. Ethical Maintenance**

- **Rotation Schedule:** Plan for a rest period. Never extract from the same colony for more than 3 consecutive weeks without a 7-day "recovery window" to allow nurse bees to replenish their glandular reserves.
- **Post-Harvest Inspection:** Schedule a follow-up inspection 48 hours after extraction to ensure the colony has not developed stress-induced supersedure cells or signs of queenlessness.