Dry Sugar Feeding

Dry sugar or other winter feeding techniques are used when the bees’ normal honey reserves are dangerously low.

- Too cold during the winter with the low temperatures for the bees to process syrup successfully. (winter = when it is too cold to fly)
- Solution is to give them dry feed. Dry feed works because the bees don’t have to evaporate off the water.
- Use granulated (not powdered) sugar, fondant or candy canes to dry feed. If you want, you can add a small amount (5% of volume) of fructose (you can get it at Fred Meyer) to the granulated sugar. This absorbs water out of the air making the sugary combination more attractive to the bees.
- Check in a week or two to see how the bees are doing with the sugar by removing the cover or insulating box.
- Feed again if they consumed the sugar.
- TIP: a small spritz of water sprayed on top of the granulated sugar will prevent it from flowing out the center hole.

Remove insulation box and hive cover and place newspaper or preferably an inner cover over the bee cluster.

Place a shim over the paper/cover to create space and fill the space with granulated sugar.

If using paper, make sure you make a hole in the center and leave a small amount of space on at least one side to allow the bees access. The inner cover has a hole.

Replace your insulation box and cover.