

# CURT & KATHY'S SWEET VARIETAL MEAD KIT

Official NORTHERN BREWER Instructional Document

Honey varieties can taste incredibly different from one another. The best way to savor their flavors is to make a pure, unadulterated sweet mead from a single honey variety. This kit was designed by 2005 mead maker of the year Curt Stock, and it showcases his proven techniques for making mead. We offer this kit with each type of honey we sell, and we encourage you to try them all!

**O.G: 1.110-1.115 READY: 4 MONTHS**

2 weeks primary, 3 months secondary,  
2 weeks bottle conditioning

## KIT INVENTORY:

### MAILLARD MALTS™ EXTRACTS & OTHER FERMENTABLES

- 15 lbs Varietal Honey

### SPECIAL INGREDIENTS

- 4 packets Curt & Kathy's yeast nutrient blend
- 12 grams Nutriferm Energy in a 30 ml vial

### YEAST

- **2 PACKETS OF LALVIN 71B-1122 "NARBONNE"**. A rapid starting and constant fermenting semi-dry white wine yeast that will enhance fruit flavors and add fruity esters, ideal for fermenting with neutral grapes or concentrates. Limits phenol extraction and may neutralize up to 40% of malic acid producing a smooth and rounded "nouveau" wines that will mature quickly. A low foaming strain. 59-89° F (15-30C).

These simple instructions are basic brewing procedures for this Northern Brewer mead kit; please refer to your starter kit instructions for specific instructions on use of equipment and common procedures such as siphoning, sanitizing, bottling, etc.

For more detailed extract brewing instructions, please visit [www.northernbrewer.com](http://www.northernbrewer.com)

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN ...

### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- Homebrewing starter kit for brewing 5 gallon batches
- Approximately two cases of either 12 ounce or 22 ounce pry-off style beer bottles

### UNPACK THE KIT

- Refrigerate the yeast upon arrival
- Locate the Kit Inventory (above) - this is the recipe for your mead, so keep it handy
- Doublecheck the contents vs. the Kit Inventory
- Contact us immediately if you have any questions or concerns!

## PROCEDURE

### ON BREWING DAY

1. Sanitize the fermenting equipment - fermenter, lid or stopper, fermentation lock, funnel, etc - along with the yeast pack and a pair of scissors.
2. Fill a sink or cooler with hot tap water and soak honey container(s) to make the honey easier to pour. If your honey is crystallized, don't worry - all raw and natural honey crystallizes over time, especially in colder temperatures. Soaking the honey container in hot water will turn it back into liquid form.
3. Fill fermenter with 3 gallons of room temperature water.
4. Add the contents of ONE sachet of Nutrient Blend to the water in the fermenter and stir before honey is added.
5. Boil 0.5 gallons of water.
6. While water is coming to a boil, pour honey into the fermenter along with the room-temp water and nutrient.
7. Take the boiled water and carefully pour a small amount into each empty honey container.
8. Replace covers and shake to dissolve remaining honey (Caution: pressure will build in containers! Open carefully!).
9. Pour the warm water and dissolved honey into the fermenter. Top up with additional water as needed to achieve a volume of 5 gallons. The mixture is now called the must.
10. Stir the must until all honey is dissolved and well mixed. This may take 5 to 15 minutes, possibly longer.
11. Prepare yeast. Place 1/2 cup of warm water (105-110 degrees F) into a sanitized measuring cup. Add the Nutriferm Energy vial and stir to mix well. Add both packs of yeast and stir slightly.
12. After 15 minutes (yeast should begin to foam), stir well to mix the yeast into a slurry. Pour the yeast slurry into the fermenter.
13. Seal fermenter with a sanitized airlock and locate fermenter in an area that is 65 to 70 deg F.
14. Fermentation should start within 24 hours.

### BEYOND BREWING DAY – FIRST ONE TO TWO WEEKS

15. Add the remaining nutrient sachets following the schedule below. Remember to carefully sanitize all equipment used to stir the must for each nutrient addition. Warning: adding nutrient and stirring may cause the mead to foam over. Before each nutrient addition you should briefly stir the mead to release residual CO<sub>2</sub>; this will help prevent foaming.

- Add one sachet of Mead Nutrient Blend 24 hours after yeast pitch and stir.
- Add one sachet of Mead Nutrient Blend 48 hours after yeast pitch and stir.
- Add one sachet of Mead Nutrient Blend 72 hours after yeast pitch and stir.

### BEYOND BREWING DAY – SECONDARY FERMENTATION

16. When fermentation stops and the specific gravity as measured by a hydrometer is stable (has not changed over the course of two days), it is ready to transfer into a secondary fermenter. Sanitize your fermenter and siphoning equipment.

17. Carefully siphon the mead into the fermenter. Leave as much sediment as possible in the primary fermenter.

18. Let the mead clarify in the secondary fermenter for three months. You may wish to add a fining agent such as isinglass to facilitate clearing, and/or potassium sorbate to prevent further fermentation.

### BOTTLING DAY – 3.5 MONTHS AFTER BREWING DAY

19. Sanitize siphoning and bottling equipment and bottles. Carefully siphon the mead to a bottling bucket. We recommend this mead be made still, but if you wish to carbonate it you would add priming sugar at this point.

21. Fill and cap bottles as described in your starter kit instructions.

22. Bottles may be consumed 2 weeks after bottling or kept and aged for 6 months or more to achieve superior flavor.