

Splits, Packages, Nucs & Queenless



Package



Unloading



Package Installation



Queen Cage

First Inspection & Queen Cage Removal



Feed Warm Syrup

Feeder 1/2 Full

Check every 3 to 4 days depending on the weather

Feeding Package Bees

- **Package bees will take feed out of frame type feeders. NO top feeders**
 - **Must have feeder immediately adjacent to cluster**
 - **Put feed on hot (can hold finger in feed)**
 - **Boardman Feeders work.... Usually. More labor intense (visit hive twice daily)**
- **Once clusters start they usually will continue feeding. May slow if forage**
- **Watch closely during cold weather to make sure they continue feeding**
Vanilla or Honey B Healthy can be mixed in feed to stimulate feeding
- **During rainy weather the frame feeders often gather water**
 - **Sits on top of feed - Bees stop feeding and will starve or surely stop brooding**
- **Must watch package bees carefully to make sure they are taking feed**
- **Without feed they will die in days**

If bees are clustered tightly and visibly shaking they are probably starving
Immediately dump granulated sugar on the cluster

Splits

Definition of a Split

1:1 Split the hive equally between each hive

2:1 Brood and Food from 2 hives to build 3rd

3:1 etc.

Split to a Nuc (4 or 5 frame) or a Single (8 or 10)

Great for building mating Nucs

SPLITTING TOO SOON

Very Common in this area

Splitting with new Queen - Mandatory for this time of the year.

Grow your own Queen only possible after lots of mature Drones

Split Production

Increase (or) Dead-out Replacement

How to Make a Queen Right Split

Set new hive (single) near strong hive

Open Old Hive and Find the frame w/Queen

Move that frame to center of new hive

Pull Brood Frames and distribute equally

Pull food frames and distribute equally

Add additional Frames (drawn)

End w/old hive in 2 deeps, Split in single

Add new queen (after hive is queenless ~ 15 min)

Leave cork in cage

Move Nuc/Split to new location. Alter Flight path.

Check Queen cage after 2-3 days. Add marsh mellow

Be ready to add 2nd deep to new split.

Discussion Points

When is the Best time to make Splits???

2:1 or 3:1 Splits

Pull Brood and Food frames from multiple hives

DON'T MOVE THE OLD QUEENS FROM DONOR HIVES

Move capped brood from 3rd/4th hive w/minimal bees

Move food frames with no bees

60,000 vs two 30,000 bee hives.

One 60,000 hive will produce more honey than two 30,000

Focus on local honey flow.

How many foragers in each hive

Emergency Re-Queening

Sometimes colony will have gone queenless over winter
Do not try to introduce a new queen

Can combine with another weak colony
OR
Combine with overwintered nuc

Use newspaper method

Put new colony or nuc with queen on top of queenless colony

Cut slight slot with hive tool in the newspaper

Try to limit size of resulting colony to two boxes of bees by shaking bees into two single boxes before combining

Resulting colony can be split in May when fresh queens are available

Small Slit



QUESTIONS?



End of Day 2