Installing a Package of Bees

1 Empty Deep, bottom board, Inner & outer cover 10 Frames with foundation 1quart of 1:1 sugar solution Fumagilin-B [optional] entrance reducer Spray Bottle small nail or paper clip Bordman type feeder Veil & hive tool

Thread or dental floss in case tab comes off of queen cage

Before bees arrive, set up a one story hive, including bottom board, deep hive body, 10 frames, inner cover & outer cover. Prepare 1:1 Sugar solution optionally with Fumagilin-B

Feed bees by spraying sugar syrup on to the package screen surface using a misting spray bottle (if temperature allows).

Install bees in late afternoon so they will settle down for the night and not drift.

Bump package on the ground or the edge of hive stand so the bees fall to the bottom of the package.

Remove package cover (use hive tool if necessary) and grasp queen cage tab. Gently remove queen cage by lifting and removing the can of syrup (a small amount of bees will escape, this is o.k.). Try not to let queen cage fall into bottom of package. Lay the cover back on top of the package to keep the bees in.

Examine the queen by brushing aside any bees on the outside of the queen cage that block your view of the queen. If the queen is dead call your supplier

Remove cork from **candy end** of queen cage.

Using a small nail or paper clip, puncture the candy in the queen cage so the queen can be released easier by the workers. Be careful not to skewer the queen.

Remove four frames from the hive. Hang the queen cage, screen side up, between the foundation of two frames so you can see the queen through the partial opening when the inner cover is replaced. Make sure the screen of the cage is accessible to the workers.

Briskly shake the bees into the empty area of the hive where the frames were removed.

Gently replace the frames that were removed so that there is a total of ten frames.

Place the empty package on the ground by the front entrance so any stray bees can get to the hive

Replace inner and outer cover.

Put a small block of wood near the front and on top of the inner cover to slightly prop up outer cover for ventilation. Skip this step if weather is very cold.

Install the Bordman feeder. The feeder should never be allowed to empty. The bees need the sugar to produce wax. A pollen supplement can also be added if there are no flowers in bloom.

Replace outer cover and place brick on top to weigh it down. The bees are now installed!

Do not disturb for one week.

Use a small amount of smoke. Open the hive and look at the queen cage. If the queen is released, remove the queen cage from the hive.

If the queen is still in the cage, pull off the screen and let her walk onto the frames. Perform this operation very near the frames so the queen does not fly away.

Feed as much of the syrup/ Fumagilin B. as they will take (at this point you may use a hive top feeder in lieu of the Boardman feeder if you prefer)

After two weeks, if you see a fairly compact brood pattern, (capped cells) all is well.



Beekeepers

http://www.essexcountybeekeepers.org/