

INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

1. Release the bees as soon as possible
 - A. Reduces stress and stress induced diseases on the bees
 - B. Gives more time for comb building
2. If delayed, keep cool, dry, fed and in a darkened place
3. Gather the equipment needed (refer to handout)
4. Release bees in mid to late afternoon
 - A. Temperature warmer
5. Set up one hive body on hive stand (without top covers)
 - A. Tilt hive slightly forward for drainage
 - B. Install feeder with Fumigilin medicated syrup
 - C. Install entrance reducer with opening away from feeder to reduce chilling
6. Remove two frames from each side of the hive body and one center frame
7. Spray bees heavily with a mist of medicated syrup from the sprayer (if weather is cool, spray lightly to minimize chilling the bees)
 - A. Bees engorge themselves
 - B. Bees get sticky (easier to pour, harder to fly)
8. Put on your protective clothing
9. Bump package on the ground or the edge of the hive stand
10. Re-spray fairly heavy to minimize flying (again, if weather is cool spray lightly)
11. Remove the cover from the package of bees (use hive tool if necessary)
12. Remove the can of syrup (a small amount of bees will escape, this is ok)
13. Gently remove queen cage
14. Replace cover
15. Examine the queen
 - A. Gently brush bees aside
 - B. Check for crippled or dead queen. If either condition is found return cage to package, close package, return to dark, cool, dry place and call your supplier immediately to order a new queen.
16. If queen is fine, remove cork from candy end (save the cork).Very carefully pierce candy with a thin nail or paper clip (this step is currently under debate between beekeepers as to whether it is necessary). Use thumb tacks, frame wire or frame nails bent to form hooks to hang cage in center frame space (screen perpendicular to wax and candy at top of cage).

17. Remove the cover from the package and shake about 1/3 of the bees onto the queen cage
18. Shake the remaining 2/3 evenly in the empty spaces on either side of the hive
19. Place the package on the ground by the front entrance so any stray bees can get to the hive
20. Gently replace the two frames on either side
 - A. Don't crush the bees with the frames
21. Replace inner cover with deep side face down to allow extra room above top bars
22. Replace and prop-up outer cover slightly for ventilation
23. Place brick (or use bunji cord) on top to weigh it down. (The bees are now installed!)
24. Return to hive in three/four days to check on the release of the queen (use small amount of smoke)
25. If queen is released :
 - A. Remove queen cage and carefully replace the missing frame
 - B. Return in 2-4 days for evidence of cell building
 - C. If she is not found, and workers seem agitated, call your mentor for advice (you may need to order a new queen).
26. If queen is still in the cage :
 - A. Check for worker rejection. Bees may be tightly clustered on queen cage, biting at wires and won't easily move from cage. Return cork to cage, place back in hive and call your mentor for advice (you may need to order a new queen).
 - B. Check for worker acceptance. Bees move freely on cage and are trying to feed the queen with their tongues. Remove the cork from other end of the cage; return to hive and check back in a couple of hours. When queen is released remove the queen cage and replace the missing frame.
27. Feed the recommended amount of Fumigilin medicated syrup(at this point you may use a hive top feeder in lieu of the boardman feeder if you prefer).
28. Check back in about 5-10 days for brood (if no brood can be found call your supplier to order a new queen).

