

Packages & Nucs



“You can’t count all of them as dependents.”

Packages & Nucs



- Preparation
- Installation
- Feeding
- Treatment options
- Then what?





Before Bees Arrive

PLAN



AHEAD

D

Apiary Considerations



- Safe Area (fire / flooding prone areas)
- Regulations (side yards, # hives)
see Residential Beekeeping
- Hive predators

- Paint uniquely
- Don't set up in rows



The Usual Suspects



skunk



yellow jacket



black bear



10:24 AM



field mouse

homo destructor

Location, Location, Location

Applicable to your area!

Hive stands

Easy vehicle access

Water, nectar & pollen sources

Windbreak

Full sun light facing S or SE

Safety – use railing on bear stands, etc.

see: [Best Management Practices for Hive Health](#)



When Bees Arrive

Dead bees on bottom of cage?

Bees should not be wet.

(overheating during transit)

Place in cool, darkened place.

Mist with h₂o – they will be thirsty.

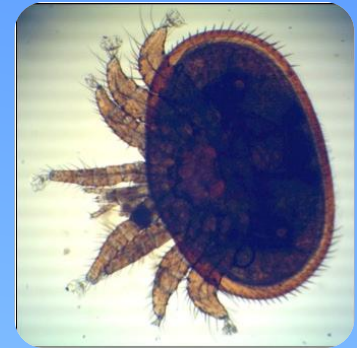
Perfect time to treat for phoretic mites!



Varroa Destructor

Greatest threat to honey bees, honey production & pollination services

- Every colony in N America
- Population doubles ~once a month
- Robbing, drifting & absconding



Don't be paralyzed with hope or suffer under the tyranny of optimism!

- Bee proactive w/o treatment colony will fail in 2-3 years = mite bomb
Bees in failing hives can show up in hives 2 miles away
- Start thinking about IPM (Integrated Pest Managemet)
- Learn mite sampling methods



TOOLS FOR VARROA MANAGEMENT

A GUIDE TO EFFECTIVE VARROA SAMPLING & CONTROL

HEALTHY BEES · HEALTHY PEOPLE · HEALTHY PLANET™



**HONEY BEE
HEALTH
COALITION™**

Sixth Edition - April 7, 2017

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Tools for Varroa Management (doing nothing is not an option!)



Will Varroa kill my bees?



IPM



Sampling Methods



Essential oils



Apivar



Apistan or Checkmite+



Formic acid



HopGuard



Oxalic Acid



Sanitation, screen bottoms



Drone brood removal



Requeening

<https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa/>

Treatment Tips

- Use exactly as instructions indicate
- Treatments are temp & time dependent
- Don't use while honey supers on!!!
- Wear protective equipment (gloves, goggles, respirators, have h2o near by, etc.)
- Treat all colonies at same time



Apivar



Apistan or Checkmite+



Formic acid



HopGuard

Phoretic Mites on Packages - Oxalic Acid

Before installation



Fruit, vegetables, esp amaranth,
chives, parsley, rhubarb leaves

Oxalic Acid Kit

Have supply of water near by

<http://scientificbeekeeping.com/varroa-management/treatments-for-varroa/>

<https://honeybeesuite.com/tag/oxalic-acid/>

Remove Feeder Can & Qn Cage



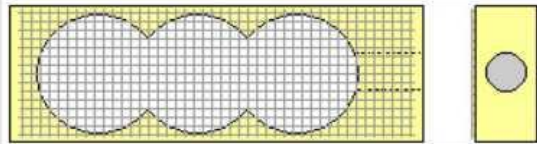
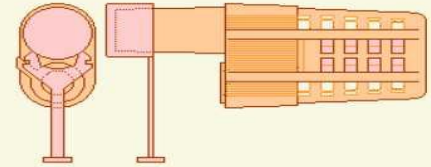
Make sure qn is alive!

Queen Cages

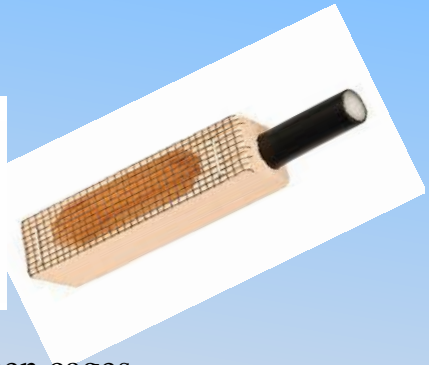
May contain a different queen cage

- Remove cap or cork
- Install gummy bear or marshmallow
- Some use masking tape for longer release time

JZ/BZ



Queen in Benton 3-hole cage



CA mini queen cages

Pour the Bees

- Remove 4-5 frames from deep
- Place QN cage in hive w/screen facing out & candy plug up if attendants
- Pour small amount on QN
- Pour rest where frames removed
- Gently replace frames



And finally

- Place protein patty over cluster
- Install inner cover
- Install feeder & empty deep
- Narrow entrance
- Place cage in front of hive



william-snekspeare

"When you're in your bee suit and you feel sweat running down your back, that's fine. If you feel sweat running up your back, that's a bee"

Let Bees Establish

- Resist the urge to over-examine
- Remove QN cage after 7-10 days
- Don't disturb for 2 weeks



REMOVE
when QN
cage removed

Nuc Installation







Place on hive stand & remove entrance plug

Next day (if wx permits):

- Set nuc aside & place empty hive on stand
- Lightly smoke nuc
- Install brood frames (~3 frms) in exact order as nuc
- Install drawn comb or foundation btwn brood & honey frames
- Note: queen, brood, brood pattern, eggs?
- Install protein patty, inner cover, feeder, deep & outer cover
- Place nuc box in front of hive w/lid off
- Leave ~2 weeks



Feeders

Boardman	Inverted Bucket/Jar		Empty Super/ inner cover	Inside Feeder/Division Board	Hive Top
					
Pros: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Convenient to use ✓ Do not have to open ✓ Syrup level visible ✓ Access easy because external to hive 	Pros: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Convenient to use ✓ Do not have to open hive when re-filling ✓ Syrup level visible in strong light ✓ Proximity to cluster ✓ Feeding port engineered so syrup does not drip when feeding 	Pros: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Convenient to use ✓ Do not have to open hive to re-fill ✓ Syrup level easily seen ✓ Proximity to cluster ✓ No propolised feeding port ✓ Less expensive than bucket 	Pros: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Convenient to use ✓ Used for dry feeding ✓ Minimum disturbance: only have to open cover ✓ Used in cold or wet weather when dry feeding is only option ✓ Proximity to cluster 	Pros: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Proximity to brood nest ✓ Bees have access to feeder 	Pros: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Convenient to use ✓ Minimum disturbance ✓ Only have to open cover
Cons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Encourages robbing ✓ Attracts ants ✓ External so weather dependent for bees 	Cons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Expanding air can force syrup out ✓ Feeding port loosens over time ✓ Requires empty super & inner cover to block light ✓ If not all syrup taken up, may ferment or spoil 	Cons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Requires empty super & inner cover to block light 	Cons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No cons 	Cons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Takes up room in brood area ✓ Have to open the hive to re-fill ✓ Older models drown bees ✓ Bees may not leave cluster to feed 	Cons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Bees have to break cluster to feed ✓ If not all syrup taken up, may ferment or spoil

Baggie Feeder

- Convenient
- Syrup level visible
- Drowns few bees
- Really cheap



- Low capacity
- Might need spacer

<https://honeybeesuite.com/how-to-tame-a-baggie-feeder/>

Jar Feeder

- Convenient w/o opening hive
- Syrup level visible
- “Natural” dispensing time
- Inexpensive



- Requires empty super
- Low capacity

Boardman Feeder

- Don't use externally !!!!
- Convenient w/o opening hive
- Syrup level visible
- “Natural” dispensing time



- Requires empty super
- Low capacity

Bucket Feeders



- Convenient w/o opening hive
- Syrup level visible
- “Natural” dispensing time



- Small storage footprint
- Can carry 4 at a time in each hand



- Requires empty super

Division Board Feeder

- Close to brood nest
- Access within hive
- Takes up room in hive
- Must open hive to refill
- Bees have to leave cluster to feed
- Some drowning



Hive Top Feeders

- Convenient
 - Disturbance minimal
 - High capacity
-
- Leave cluster
 - May create “welfare bees”
 - May become “syrup bound”
 - Too much syrup may mold, ferment, spoil
 - Hard to carry when full
 - Drowned bees



WHAT TO LOOK FOR DURING 1ST TWO WEEKS

External Hive Check

- Forager bees bringing in pollen
- Orientation flights
- Undertaker bees removing dead bees
- Guard bees at entrance
- HVAC bees fanning & scenting w/nasonov gland
- Bee beard



First Varroa Sampling

- Sticky board



1st Inspection

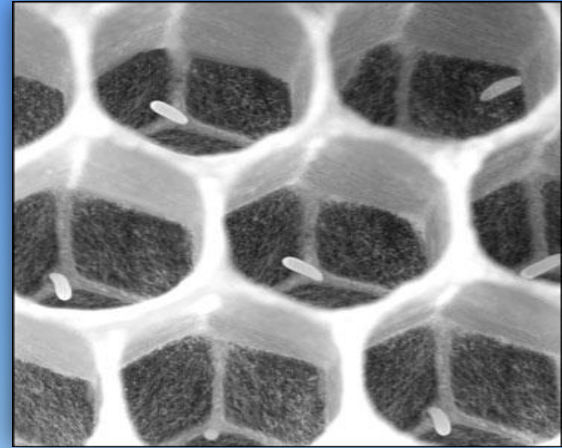
> 2 weeks (temp > 70 deg)

- Smoke, wait a few mins
- In/Out < 15 mins
- Hold frames over hive
- #3 frame most indicative
- Super - 70% rule



WHAT YOU SHOULD SEE

- Drawn comb
- Laying queen
- Compact brood pattern
- 3-6-12
- Honey & pollen stores



**“You must remember that
you are a beginner
for the first 20 years.”**

– Eva Crane,
beekeeping researcher and author



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR HIVE HEALTH

A GUIDE FOR BEEKEEPERS

HEALTHY BEES • HEALTHY PEOPLE • HEALTHY PLANET™

<https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/hivehealthbmps/>

Key to Success - Bee Happy!

- Understand bees, pests & diseases
 - Join clubs
 - Attend classes
 - Find a mentor
 - Read, read, read
- Treat / Medicate (IPM)
 - Know what to look for
 - When to look for it
 - What to do about it
- Inspections (~ every 2 weeks)
 - Choose your days
 - Know bee temperament
 - Handle drones for practice
- Monitor & document – be observant
 - Hive & bloom logs

Listen to your asparagus.
It will tell you how to eat it.



Most importantly - Listen to your bees!!

Honey
Wax
Propolis
Pollen

You're not just a beekeeper. You're a
biologist, entomologist, master gardener, weatherman.....

The seasons
Wx
Micro climates
Floral environment
Phenology
Epigenesis
Pathogens & pests
Microbiome
Genetics
Virology
Wild bees



INSTALL VIDEOS

<https://Introducing a Nuc Colony>

<https://Honey Bee #3 Pkg & Qn Install>

<https://Honey Bee Pkg Install>

<https://Install Honeybee Pkg w/ Jorik>

<https://Install Pkg Bees at Beaman's Fork>

<https://Bee Fitter Install Pkg Bees>



And The Journey Bee-gins!



10:32 AM