



INTRODUCING A NEW QUEEN TO YOUR HIVE

Introducing a new queen to your hive can seem like an intimidating process but, with a little planning and the right approach you can be very successful. A new queen can increase your hive's capacity and improve the genetics of your colony, but the introduction must be done properly to ensure the workers accept their new queen.

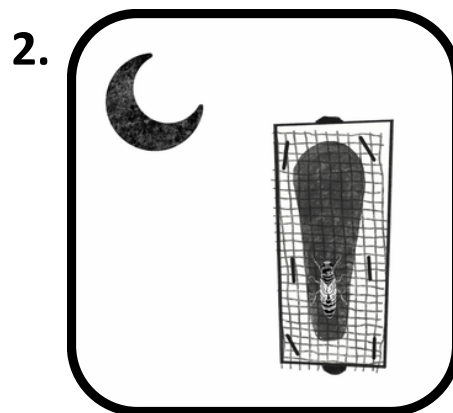
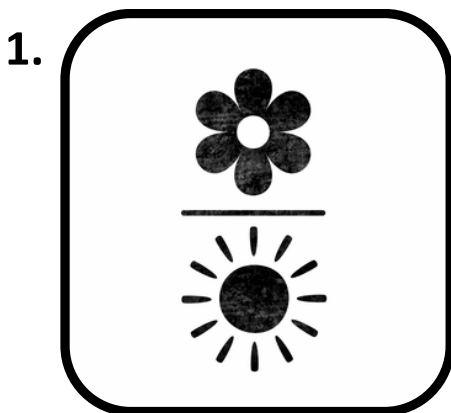
A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO HELP YOU SUCCESSFULLY INTRODUCE A NEW QUEEN TO YOUR HIVE:

1. Choose the Right Time:

Introducing a new queen is best done during the spring or early summer when the hive is growing and the bees are actively foraging. Avoid introducing a new queen during a nectar dearth or other stressful times as it will lower the chances that a hive will accept a new queen. If this can't be avoided then feed the hive sugar syrup and pollen substitute for a few weeks to improve acceptance.

2. Prepare the Hive:

Once your new queen has arrived and you confirm she is in good condition, place her in a cool dark place away from any dangerous fumes or chemicals such as a coat closet. Then prepare her hive by ensuring that the hive is in good condition with ample food stores. Next remove any queen cells whether they are sealed or not. Also if the old queen is still present then you will need to remove or kill her. She can be quickly and humanely dispatched by crushing her with your hive tool. Once the queen has been removed or dispatched you can close the hive up and leave them to discover that they are queenless. Usually overnight is a sufficient amount of time for the bees to discover this. Do not attempt to re-queen your hive unless you are confident that it has no Queen. This step will make your bees eager to accept a new Queen.



3. Prepare the queen

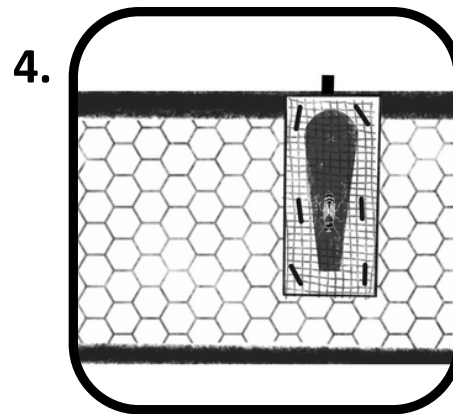
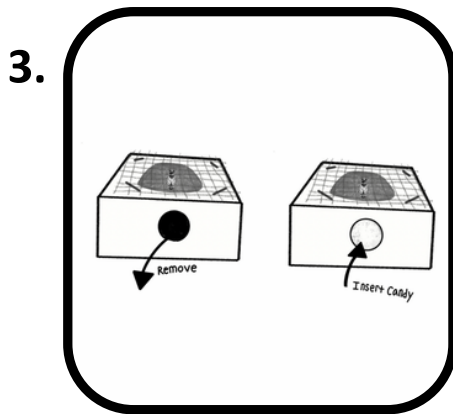
Remove the cork from one end of the queen shipping cage being careful not to let the queen escape. If there is not a candy plug covering the hole then place a small piece of marshmallow in the hole to prevent the Queen's release. The cage's candy plug allows the worker bees to gradually eat through, giving them time to acclimate to the new queen.

4. Position the Queen Cage:

Insert the queen cage between the frames in the center of the brood nest preferably near uncapped brood. Make sure the candy plug is facing outwards and can be easily accessed by the worker bees.

5. Monitor the Hive:

Leave the hive undisturbed for at least 3-5 days. During this time, the worker bees will become accustomed to the new queen's scent. Regularly check the hive entrance for signs of acceptance, such as worker bees bringing in new pollen.



6. Release the Queen:

After a few days, check the hive again. If the worker bees seem calm and accepting, and they haven't completely eaten through the candy plug, you can release the queen into the hive. Ensure there is no aggressive behavior from the workers before releasing her.

7. Observe and Confirm Acceptance:

Monitor the hive closely for the next few weeks. Look for signs of a healthy queen, such as the presence of eggs, larvae, and capped brood. Also, observe the workers' behavior, workers bringing in fresh pollen for the growing hive is a great indicator of brood rearing and successful introduction.

Remember, patience and careful observation are key during this process. Each hive is unique, and the acceptance of a new queen can vary. By following these steps you'll increase the likelihood of a successful introduction, leading to a thriving and more productive hive.

