

SUCCESSFUL BEEKEEPING

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NEW QUEEN IS WINTERING SUCCESS.

Rearing queens for requeening will provide swarm control, - increased production.

**STOP RELYING ON IMPORTED QUEENS.
RE QUEEN ALL 2 YEAR OR OLDER QUEENS.**



THE KEY TO SUCCESSFUL WINTERING IS A NEW QUEEN-not the one you buy in September, but the one you buy or rear in June and proof tested over summer: it also stops swarming and increases production. You can increase the number of colonies: **THE TIME TO DO IT IS NOW.**

Talk to your local reputable Bee breeder what is available and when. For our prices and availability in current year Email: billruzicka@mitgone.com or call 250-762-8156. Or click on: <http://www.mitgone.com/pdfpages/BHF%200000%20BLANK.pdf> Book your time and come to see how it is done on instruction days.

SIMPLIEST WAY IS: To buy mated queen reared in June and establish it in a split. You let old queen in one box to carry all brood and work of producing honey and comb over summer use queen excluder. Set up 20% more splits and Queens as you want to have for winter. You can always sell them later.

In late August - September when you treat with mitegone, you kill the old queen and put on top new one, spray them both with 10% sugar sirup. **They should be available by July.**

YOU can re-queen by TESTED Queen in August (laying in our nukes from mating in June.)

FOR REARING YOUR OWN QUEENS most important think is to rear your own DRONES. It takes 35 days for Drone to reach maturity and mate Queen she needs 12-15 drones. Therefore, when saskatoons bloom put in your best hives Drone producing frames. You move them in mid May to escape boxes and on and of June put born out frames into storage.

SIMPLE REQUEENING BY CELLS: Most commercial beekeepers re-queen old hives each year by: **CELL IN CELL PROTECTOR: bought from reputable BEE BREEDER.**

They just put it in on emerging brood comb. When the virgin gets born, she gets rid of the old Queen. Young Queens do not swarm. If you want to make sure, you kill the old Queen. And check the cell for emergence.

REQUEENING BY SPLIT AND RUNNING A PARALLEL COLONY. Set up 40% more splits of what you want to winter. 4 days before the cells or caged virgins are available to you, put a queen excluder between your 2 boxes. On the day when you get the cells; you need small cooler with hot bottle to keep cells in 30-degree Celsius temperature and rubber foam with ½” holes. Ladies do have advantage they have good incubator in their cleavage.

You split your hive in two and find which one has the eggs, that where the queen is. That one will stay in the original location. Put q-excluder on it and give them honey box, this is a great way to draw foundation if you do not use q-excluder.

Divide the other into 2 boxes evenly starting at one wall –one comb of honey, one pollen, two combs with brood closure comb, (is something with bees) feeder and empty combs. Entrance reducer and SCREEN on own bottom board. Put into each one between the brood combs on the brood where

normally the supersede cells will be, the cell in protector. Staple on top the carpet cover and put on top cover, Leave the SCREENED splits right beside old hive beside each other., **DONOT TAKE SPLITS AWAY DRONES ARE IN YOUR YARD** Remove screens after 3-4 days when checking emergence.

THE WAY TO MAKE MATING NUKES.

As I was dissatisfied with feeder pails and needed nukes. So, I created a wooden inner feeder replacing 2 STD frames. When put on standard bottom board with strip of carpet in middle I had created 2 – 4 frame mating nukes. Please note that the feeder has two compartments joined by ½” gap under centre divider and that the top half is open to the right and the closer one to the left. The higher sides and centre divider form the letter “S” so when carpet is put on the top the two nukes are sealed separately.

We would have 550 of these, providing 1100 mating units to ensure our new generation as all 1 year old queens were sold with SWARMS.

If one did not mate, we just moved the feeder to the side and had 8 frame colonies if both mated, we caught and sold one and then made an 8 framer. Here you see it in the current use. The feeder can be moved to any position creating from 4 frame mating nuke to 8 frame wintering unit.

Please note the screened entrance 2” x 3/8” high. The old Inner covers makes perfect bottom board By rising rim to 3/8 and cutting entrance on side.



DO NOT TAKE SPLITS AWAY. LEAVE THEM SCREENED FOR 3-4 DAYS.

Virgins need drones to mate with and they are not 2 and half miles away as bee books advise.

ON VIRGIN DAY you remove screens and check your cells for emergence:

If emerged it's fine. If one did not; you come and get CAGED VIRGIN to replace bad cells; You must bring non-emerged cells, undamaged, in the cell protectors. The caged virgins are of the same age as cells they will mate on same day in June, look for nice calm, warm weather afternoon & record it on calendar.

Both shall be mated 20 days after you put the cells in, if not give them 35 days if you can confirm a virgin.

WE CAN MAIL CAGED VIRGINS in JZBZ cages and boxes to those far away.

Post office can guarantee 2 days delivery., but not live delivery. Therefore it is your gain or loss.

Otherwise you do all same as you would do with cells.

IF BOTH MATED and you want increase to more hives put both splits into own box full of frames and place a honey super over Q excluder. At the end of AUGUST, you put one split on top of old queen, I recommend killing her, if you cannot find it, join them with sprits of glade deodorant between boxes and put the q-excluder and honey super on top of both **YOUNG QUEEN WILL ALWAYS WIN.** You winter the other split as 8 frames with feeder on the top of 2 high colonies.

IF ONE IS NOT MATED join it with mated one together into one box using sugar water spray.

LAST ADVICE IF YOU DO NOT KNOW HOW OLD ARE YOUR QUEENS REQUEEN.