

Complete Beekeeping Short Course

Part 6: Starting New Bee Colonies



getting your first bees

- purchase an established hive
 - easiest way to become a beekeeper
 - used equipment can be a bargain
 - can also come with problems
 - bee colonies can not be legally moved without a health inspection certificate
- established hives can be moved
 - less than 3 feet *OR* more than 3 miles
 - close the hive securely after sunset
 - open the hive entrance after placing the hive



getting your first bees

- nucleus hive ("nuc")
 - miniature hive (usually 5 deep frames)
- place it exactly where you want your hive
- let the bees establish their foraging patterns
- transfer the frames and bees into a standard sized hive before they get too crowded
- laying queen
- frames of brood
- frames of food



getting your first bees

- package bees
 - 1 queen
 - 3 pounds of workers



getting your first bees

- bees begin shipping around mid-April
 - supplier will tell you when to expect delivery
 - provide them with a phone number
 - post office may call you to pick them up
- keep them out of the sun
- give them water or sugar syrup



installing package bees



candy plug goes up!

feeding your bees

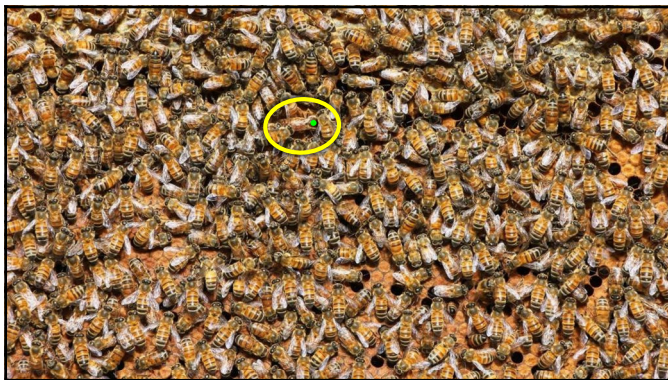


- feed them well
- leave them alone for 3 days
- remove the empty queen cage
- inspect comb building & continue feeding

the new bee hive



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- leave them alone for 3 days
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the new bee hive



- continue feeding while combs are being built
- check on their progress about once a week

the new bee hive

- watch hive entrance for bees with pollen
- a healthy, mated queen should begin laying eggs within **24 hours** of release from shipping cage
- capped brood cells should be present by **10 days** after the queen was released
- about **3 weeks** after the queen was released, fully developed workers should be emerging

