



## Introduction of Queen Bees

Four Beekeepers 'asked how' will have ten different ways of introducing Queens, they may all work, this is the method we use.

- Take two or three frames of brood and bees from the hive ensuring that the old Queen is **not** amongst them. Preferably frames with capped brood, with eggs they may choose to raise their own Queen.
- To make sure you only have the 'nurse' bees and not the Queen, one at a time lift a frame that you intend to take half out of the brood box, and with a firm flick, shake the all the bees from the frame back into the hive. Close up the remaining brood and replace the taken frames placing either side of the brood nest. Place a Queen excluder over the original brood box, and another brood box over the Queen excluder. Put the frames of brood you have removed into the centre of the upper brood box and rebuild the hive, with supers if you had some on before the crown board and roof.
- The following morning, the earlier and cooler it is the better, lots of gentle nurse bees will have gone up through the excluder to keep the brood warm overnight. Take the upper brood box away and use it in a hive with dummy boards either side of the brood to retain heat or put the frames with the brood and nurse bees into a Nucleus box. An extra frame should be included with stores of honey and pollen, if the earlier ones do not have enough.
- Remove the snap off panel from the Queen introduction/travelling cage next to the candy marked with an **X** and place the cage between two of the frames of brood with the candy end upwards (to stop the bees dropping and blocking the candy when dead).
- Close up the Hive or Nucleus box as normal leaving only a small entrance, and leave well alone for a week at least.
- After the week if you want to use this Nucleus to re-Queen the original colony, remove the old Queen and **all** Queen cells or cups from the original hive at least four hours before introduction. Place the frames of brood from the Nucleus into the centre of the brood nest in the old hive and close together the frames. Close the old hive in the usual way and leave alone for a week.
- We prefer to remove the attendant workers from the Queen cage before introduction to reduce the possibility of conflict with the new hives workers.

Queens can be introduced directly into the old hive by removing the old queen and leaving a suitable time lapse before introducing the new Queen in her cage as above. Opinion varies from no time lapse, to several days.

No method is guaranteed, it is nature after all.

All our Queens are this years and are tested and guaranteed fertile.