

## **Principles and Precautions when using a Basic Split to make increase.**

Will the splits remain on site or one taken to another site? The point being that if on site all flying/ foraging bees will return to original position, weakening that split.

The Queenless split must not rear more than two or three queen cells and from youngest possible larvae. (Limited food supply!)

The original Colony must be strong enough to stock two good nucs. Have 11 frames of brood and/or stores including pollen.

Feed if necessary before splitting. Feed is possible after a few days. (Feeding the old queen colony at the time of splitting can induce robbing.)

There are many systems possible. Choose one that is well understood and observes the basic principles.

Here is one that I like and is easy. Splits to remain on site.

1. Select a strong colony with plenty of brood a food stores.
2. Have a suitable nucleus box available with some spare dummy boards.
3. Find the queen and put her with her frame into the nuc box.
4. Aim to put three more frames into the nuc box together with adhering bees on three. (Don't take too many nurse bees.)
5. The nuc box split needs a frame of food; two frames of emerging brood and a frame with cells for laying. Not to be fed for around two days. Fill up with a dummy board and place some distance from the original position.
6. The remaining seven frames stay in the original position. Eggs and young brood must be present. Also young bees with more emerging.
7. All foragers will stay with this split. Also this can be fed immediately.
8. After 4 days check the cell-raising split. Remove oldest, most advanced queen cells.
9. Retain two open Queen cells, ideally on separate frames. This gives the opportunity to split the split into two 3 or 4-frame mating nucs if strong enough.
10. Check that queenright split is not short of food or bees, feed if needed or anyway.
11. Allow splits to develop, feed if necessary. Add frames of foundation and feed as splits grow.

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