

Standard equipment for medium frame nuc production

Issue: There are large losses for both existing beekeepers and new beekeepers when starting hives with packages. Why?

Goal: Provide hands-on training for the production of strong, healthy hives to produce NUCs that can be used in the bee yard as hive replacement or increase.

Plan: Start moving interested local beekeepers from imported packages and queens by creating NUCs with local queens.

Process: Increase the number of hives that successfully over-winter so that NUCs can be a sizable part of the beekeeper's bee yard sustainability

Equipment: This is one example of a commercially available, medium, 5- frame nuc box. Add a jar feeder and frames. Paint is optional.



Cost for full nuc setup:

Nuc box from Dadant - \$21.95 each

5 frames with foundation - \$15.00

Jar feeder lid from Dadant - \$0.80 each

1 quart mason style jar - \$1.00

Equipment total - ~ \$38.75 plus shipping and any tax

What else is needed to start a functional 5 frame nuc?

A purchased queen or local queen cell. Queens cost between \$35 - \$45

2 frames of brood in capped and uncapped condition

Solid covering of nurse bees for the brood frames

Additional bees to be shaken into the nuc

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A frame of nectar or honey

A frame of pollen

Additional frames to complete the nuc

Some way to feed syrup

Reduced entrance opening

A place for the nuc, preferably full sun with southern exposure

A brick or rock to keep the top cover secure

When are nucs made?

Typically nucs are made just before the honey flow starts. This helps prevent swarming which usually occurs just as the honey flow is beginning, mid-April for this area. Swarming is a natural process and is very difficult to prevent.

A lost swarm is not good for either the beekeeper or the bees. The beekeeper loses ½ the bees and the existing queen so the hive can go queenless and production is lost. The swarm usually does not live in the wild due to mite and disease issues. Feral colony counts are very low in today's environment.

Why make your own nucs?

- Helps control swarming
- Increase hive numbers and/or replace dead hives
- Can be sold to other beekeepers
- Ready availability of queen if needed
- Easy to do
- Low cost after initial equipment purchase