

1 How to Start Colonies

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2 Prep Your Hive

- Purchase
- Assemble
- Paint
- Location

3 Tools

- Veil and safety equipment
- Smoker
- Hive tool
- Pliers (needle nose?)
- Something to remove cork from queen cage
- Spray bottle with syrup
- Something to hold queen cage at top of frames.
- Stiff drink.

4 How to Start a Colony

- Package bees
- Nucleus (nuc) Colony
- Full size colony
- Swarm

5 **6 Prep the Hive & Bees**

- Keep package of bees in a cool environment 60-70 deg. until ready to install.
- If the bees are not installed the same day, spray with syrup to keep feed and calm.

7 How to Start Colonies #1

- Packages (Available in April thru May)
- Note: The cat does not normally come with the package.

8 Packages**Advantages**

- Easier for beginners
- More adult bees
- Certified as apparently healthy (no comb)
- Easy to replace queen
- Less expensive

- Available in April-May

9 **Packages Disadvantages**

- Queen could become injured-not mated
- Success is dependent upon weather
- No eggs: 21 days before adult workers appear
- Bees must be fed heavily

10 **Film (Installing a Pkg.)**

11 **Package Install**

- Prep hive (remove 5 frames)
- Remove Lid from pkg.
- Spray bees with syrup
- Bang bees down
- Remove can (Turn upright)
- Remove queen Cage
- Cover hole in package
- Check the queen
- Check for fondant
- Place queen cage in safe location (pocket??)
- Remove cork from fondant side (save cork)

12 **Package Install (cont.)**

- Hang queen cage (off-center with fondant up or to the side)
- Respray with syrup
- Bang bees down (again)
- Shake "some" bees over queen
- Shake remaining bees in space
- Replace frames
- Install inner cover
- Install empty box
- Feed (Use can or quart jar)
- Install outer cover
- Reduce entrance

13 **Queen Cage Attached Differently**

14 **Queen Cage Installation**

15 **Feeder**

16 **What is a Nuc?**

- 4-5 Frames
 - 2-3 Frames of Brood
 - 2-3 Frames of Honey & Pollen

17 **Ordering Nucs**

- Decisions
 - 10 Frame or 8 frame
 - Deep (9 5/8", 90 lb) or Medium (6 5/8", 45 lb)
 - Deep (2 boxes)
 - Mediums (3 boxes)

18 **How to Start Colonies**

- Nucs (Available approximately 1-2 months after packages)
 - Purchase a split (similar to a nuc) (Beginning May-June???)
 - Age of queen

19 **Nuc****Advantages**

- Hive is fully assembled
- Seller is available for assistance
- Established colony (laying queen)
- Populous hive
- Available 1-2 months after packages

20 **Nuc****Disadvantages**

- Comb could be old
- Pesticides may be included in comb
- Comb may harbor foul brood
- Queen's age may not be known (ask)
- May include mites

21 **How to Start Colonies**

- Swarm (Wild Colonies??) (Beginning May???)
 - Old queen??

22 **Questions to Ask When Purchasing a Nuc**

- Do I Get New Frames?
- Will I Get a Newly Mated Queen?
- How Old Will The Nuc Be? (min 4 weeks old)
- Do I Get A Disposable Box?
- When Will The Nuc Be Closed? (Time of day – late evening is best.)

23 **Film (Installing a Nuc)**

24 **Installing A Nuc**

- Prep the Hive
- Remove 5-6 Frames
- Smoke the entrance & onto the top of the frames
- Begin by gently removing frame #2
- Install remaining frames from the nuc
- Install remaining new frames
- Install inner cover
- Begin feeding
- Place empty brood box on inner cover
- Install Outer cover
- Partially block entrance

25 **Film (Releasing the queen)**26 **Links to videos and other info.**

- Purchase Nuc's and Packages
- <https://www.mdbeekeepers.org/buy-nucs-and-packages-locally/>
- Miller Bee Supply Essex MD <http://millerbeesupplies.com/>
- Discussion on Deep vs Medium boxes
- <https://www.foxhoundbeecompany.com/beekeepingblog/2016/1/1/how-to-start-beekeeping-medium-or-deep-boxes>
- Videos:
- Kelley Beekeeping How to install a 3 lb package of bees – YouTube
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHfIUxyTJ44>
- Beginner Beekeeping Ep 6 - Installing a Nuc in your hive – YouTube
- <https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=beginner+beekeeping+ep+6+-+installing+a+nuc+in+your+hive+-+youtube&view=detail&mid=49FFC65F132EF21F6CC349FFC65F132EF21F6CC3&FORM=VIRE>
- Releasing the Queen
- Honey Bees and Beekeeping 2.3 Releasing Queens – YouTub
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hy5UmSosQ3Q>
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27 **Other Sources of Mite Resistant Queens**

- <http://glenn-apiaries.com/QnIntroInstr.html>