

PACKAGE BEES – CHECKLIST

Before picking up the package of bees (Day 1)

Place the bottom board and one brood box with 10 frames in position with the inner cover and outer cover on top

Put in an entrance reducer with a small entrance

Prepare sugar water solution (1:1 sugar to water ratio)

Prepare a spray bottle with sugar syrup and a feeder for the hive (not Boardman style)

After picking up the bees (Day 1)

Lightly spray some syrup on the screen of the box to feed the bees and keep them happy

If the box of bees has to be stored leave in a cool (not cold), dark place and feed by spraying with syrup every 4-6 hours

Install bees:

- Bounce the box of bees to get all the bees to the bottom of the cage
- Remove cover and feed can; retrieve the queen cage and replace cover
- Remove cork from **candy** end of queen cage (*Or install the Queen cage with the cork still in and after 3 days using smoke, open the hive and remove this cork, use a small nail to make a hole in the fondant, this method delays the queen's release.*)
- Remove several frames from the hive leaving a space to pour in the bees
- Put the queen cage between two frames with cage screen wire facing away from the foundation (*with the fondant end up*); fasten cage with thumb tack or elastic band to keep it in place
- Bounce bees to the bottom of the cage again and pour bees over the queen cage and down in between the frames (*Use a hive tool to remove several staples holding the screen wire on the package to provide an opening allowing you to shake all of the bees in the hive*)
- When most all the bees are in the hive replace rest of frames, install inner cover, feeder and outer cover

Queen/feeder check (Day 3)

Check the queen cage to see if queen has been released; remove cage if it is empty

Check feeder and refill if necessary

Queen/feeder check (Day 6)

Check the queen cage to see if queen has been released; remove cage if it is empty

If queen hasn't been released release her

- Remove 2 frames and hold the cage in the space created; carefully remove the other cork to let the queen out

Check feeder and refill if necessary

Egg/larvae inspection (Day 14)

Carefully inspect the frames for eggs or uncapped, young larvae

- If none are seen check again in 4 days
- If none are seen at that time contact your bee buddy for help

Check feeder and refill if necessary

Make sure water will be available or plan to provide it once weather is warmer

Inspection (Day 21)

Carefully inspect the frames for eggs uncapped larvae and capped brood

- Make sure capped brood is almost all **worker** brood (cappings are flat, not bullet shaped)
- If there is a lot of **drone** brood (bullet shaped cappings) contact your bee buddy for help

Check feeder and refill if necessary

Inspections (Day 28 and following)

Continue regular inspections every 7 – 10 days

Look for presence of open larvae and capped worker brood, nectar/honey and pollen

When 8 of the 10 frames have been drawn into comb add a second brood box

Continue feeding sugar syrup while the bees are drawing comb on foundation

When 8 of the 10 frames have been drawn into comb in the second brood box stop feeding and add a honey super (even though there is foundation to be drawn out in the super you cannot feed syrup when a honey super is on the hive)

Keep entrance restricted until hive is stronger

Inspections

Look for:

- Traffic at the entrance and bees bringing in pollen
- Eggs, open larvae and capped brood in the brood area
- Open nectar and capped honey on the edges of brood frames and in frames that are next to the hive walls
- The Queen (not required to see her, but neat if you do!)
- Queen cells – if you see queen cells leave them alone; you need to determine why the hive is trying to raise a queen (ask for help)
- Drones – a few are normal, if there are a lot (more than workers) call for help

Prepared by:

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NUC - CHECKLIST

Note: If you are using deep equipment, make sure your nuc supplier is providing deep frames, or if you are using medium equipment make sure you are getting medium frames.

Before picking up the nuc (Day 1)

Place the bottom board and one brood box with 5-6 frames in position with the inner cover and outer cover on top

Put in an entrance reducer with a small entrance

Prepare sugar water solution (1:1 sugar to water ratio)

Prepare a feeder for the hive (not Boardman style)

After picking up the bees (Day 1)

Put the nuc box on top of the hive and leave it alone for a little while so they settle after being transported.

Remove any screen or tape over the front entrance and let them fly

Install the nuc:

- Remove the cover on the nuc box using a little smoke
- *Remove frames of foundation from the hive body to make room for the nuc frames*
- Remove the frames from the nuc and place them in the center of the hive body
- Put frames of foundation on each side
- Invert the nuc box directly over the hive and tap it on the hive to knock the bees into the hive
- Check the nuc box to make sure all bees – and especially the queen – have transferred to the hive
- Repeat the “invert and tap” if necessary.

Frame/feeder check (Day 3)

Check frames that came with the nuc – if a nuc frame contains *only* honey and pollen (no brood) move it one position toward the outside of the box (that is swap it with the foundation frame that is next to it)

Check feeder and refill if necessary

Feeder check (Day 7)

Carefully inspect the frames for eggs, uncapped larvae and capped brood

- Make sure capped larvae is almost all **worker** brood (cappings are flat, not bullet shaped)
- If there is a lot of **drone** brood (bullet shaped cappings) contact your bee buddy for help

Continue to move the honey and pollen frames that came with the nuc toward the outside of the box (swapping with the foundation frame next to it) as frames next to the brood are drawn out

Check feeder and refill if necessary

Egg/larvae inspection (Day 14)

Carefully inspect the frames for eggs, uncapped larvae and capped brood

Continue to move the honey and pollen frames until they are on the outside of the box

Check feeder and refill if necessary

Inspection (Day 21)

Carefully inspect the frames for eggs uncapped larvae and capped brood

Make sure water will be available or plan to provide it once weather is warmer

Check feeder and refill if necessary

Make sure water will be available or plan to provide it once weather is warmer

Inspections (Day 28 and following)

Continue regular inspections every 7 – 10 days

Look for presence of open larvae and capped worker brood, nectar/honey and pollen

When 8 of the 10 frames have been drawn into comb add a second brood box

Continue feeding sugar syrup while the bees are drawing comb on foundation

When 8 of the 10 frames have been drawn into comb in the second brood box stop feeding and add a honey super (even though there is foundation to be drawn out in the super you cannot feed syrup when a honey super is on the hive)

Keep entrance restricted until hive is stronger

Inspections

Look for:

- Traffic at the entrance and bees bringing in pollen
- Eggs, open larvae and capped larvae in the brood area
- Open nectar and capped honey on the edges of brood frames and in frames that are next to the hive walls
- The Queen (not required to see her, but neat if you do!)
- Queen cells – if you see queen cells leave them alone; you need to determine why the hive is trying to raise a queen (ask for help)
- Drones – a few are normal, if there are a lot (more than workers) call for help

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