Official curriculum for the NCSBA Master Beekeeper Program Certified Level course of instruction

Installing packages and nucs using current research

Most problems are avoidable

- Beekeepers not understanding bees
- Mentors bad mouthing suppliers
- Google and YouTube

Installing a package

Pre-stage wooden ware

Things move quickly once packages are in hand

- Place hive bodies on hive stands
- All needed equipment is at the apiary and ready
- Feeders are ready to be filled
- Sugar syrup is mixed

Installing a package

Pre-stage wooden ware

Things move quickly once packages are in hand

- One frame drawn comb (if you have it, or can get it)
- One frame honey or nectar (if you have it, or can get it)
- Only need 5 frames (3 if 8 frame equipment)

No smoker needed

Packages in hand

- Remove the wooden cover from over the syrup can
- Remove the staple holding the queen strap
- Mist (don’t drown) the bees in the package with sugar syrup

Remove the syrup can and the queen

- Gently bounce the package first
- Hold onto the strap that holds the queen cage

- Change strap location
- Remove cork from candy end
- Install the queen (staple, thumb tack or use a large rubber band)

Frame of open brood if you can get it

Leave out 5 frames and place package into hive body

Put inner cover and feeders into place

Your bees are starting with nothing and need carbohydrates to survive

Next day – 2 at most

Remove the package cage and replace with frames

- 4 to 5 days later check to see if queen has been released, release if still in cage
- fill feeders as needed

Installing a nuc

- Place the nuc on the hive stand
- Open so that bees can make orientation flights

Installing a nuc

- After 2 to 3 days – set the nuc to the side, place 8 or 10 frame equipment in that spot and move the frames from the nuc into the larger equipment
- Make sure to keep the frames in the same position when moved
- Should place some additional drawn comb with them when installing
- Place the remaining frames into the equipment and feed the colony
- Smoker may be needed

Installing packages and nucs ??????????