

## Considerations for Installing Packages & Nucs / Beeschool~2016 (Kevin Kress)

1. **When you get packages & before installation**
  - a. Keep them warm, room temperature
  - b. Keep them in a quiet dark area
  - c. Don't cover them up, they need to breathe
  - d. Spray (mist) them every 12 to 8 hours with 1 to 1 sugar syrup (room temp)
  - e. Get your equipment set up, hive (all components), entrance reducer, feeder, spare deep or super or other
  - f. If a NUC, set it in its permanent location
2. **Before installation ~ Equipment you'll need**
  - a. the hive you will use including 1 brood box with a full compliment of frames with foundation or comb
  - b. hive should be set in the final permanent location with the smallest opening selected using the entrance reducer
  - c. full compliment of frames
  - d. smoker, veil & gloves (if you must)
  - e. hive tool
  - f. spray mister with 1 to 1 sugar syrup (room temp)
  - g. quart jar full of 1 to 1 sugar syrup (room temp) with a perforated lid for feeding through June or later
  - h. For Packages / tweezers or pen knife or small needle nose pliers or similar for cork removal
3. **Environmental considerations / Installation sooner is better...but....**
  - a. Watch the ten day weather forecast
  - b. Try to avoid rain and/or temperatures below 50 degrees, wind is not your friend
  - c. the closer to dusk the better, temperature dependant
  - d. after about 3 days in the package the above becomes less important than getting them in the hive
4. **The NUC Process**
  - a. Place the frames from the NUC in the center of the box containing the other frames to be used.
  - b. From below; skip to, and follow steps p. through s.
  - c. Return after approximately 5 days and follow steps x. and y. from below.
5. **The Package Process**
  - a. Remove the 5 middle-most frames from the brood-box and set them aside
  - b. Spray or mist the bees you can access through the screen liberally with 1 to 1 sugar syrup (room temp)
  - c. Pry off package top cover
  - d. Carefully remove queen cage and look for the queen; she needs to be moving and alive
  - e. put the queen cage your pocket
  - f. Carefully remove the feeder can with your mister / sprayer bottle in hand
  - g. When the can is just clear of the opening, spray or mist the bees you can access in that opening liberally with 1 to 1 sugar syrup (room temp)
  - h. Pick up the package and smack box on ground or hive to knock the bees to the bottom of the cage.
  - i. Roll the mass of bees around the inside of the cage and dump them from the opening where the feeder can and queen cage came out into the space between the 5 remaining frames., repeat steps h. & i. until all the bees are in the brood-box
  - j. Replace the 5 middle-most frames carefully as the bees climb up adjacent frames and make room for them, you can gently move the bees from side to side with the frames while replacing them.
  - k. Pull the queen cage from your pocket
  - l. VERY IMPORTANT→ remove the cork from the queen cage on the end with the candy
  - m. Wedge the queen cage between the center frames with the end where the cork was removed oriented up.
  - n. VERY IMPORTANT→ Make sure the screen side of the queen cage is not facing comb or foundation; **THE SCREEN SIDE OF THE QUEEN CAGE MUST BE EXPOSED TO THE OTHER BEES.**
  - o. Gently put the inner cover on,
  - p. invert the quart jar full of 1 to 1 sugar syrup with a perforated lid next to the hive not over it.
  - q. when it finishes dripping put it on top of the inner covering the center hole.
  - r. Place an empty hive body on top of the inner cover & place the outer telescoping cover on the empty hive body
  - s. Installation complete
  - t. Return after approximately 4 days for first inspection, Use your smoker, and check for queen release.
  - u. If the queen is released remove cage & gently move the frames together tightly **and close the hive, do not do anything else**
  - v. If not released, remove the cork from the other end of the cage and release the queen, remove cage gently move the frame together tightly **and close the hive, do not do anything else**
  - w. Return after approximately 7 to10 days for 2nd inspection
  - x. Remove the outside frame and pull the other frames back, working toward the cluster. Look for eggs in the cells. You **do not** have to see the queen. **DO NOT TEAR EVERYTHING APART LOOKING FOR HER.**
  - y. If you see eggs, the queen is alive and laying. Put frames back in **and close the hive, do not do anything else**