

SUSQUEHANNA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



Brad Seward May 2019



REASONS FOR DOING SPLITS:

- **Create more colonies**
- **Prevent Swarming**
- **Raising Queens**

TIMING FOR DOING SPLITS

- Most importantly is when the nectar/pollen flow in on
- Can be done as soon as drones are flying (if raising your own queens)
- Can be done as soon as a colony has all the resources needed



METHODS FOR SPLITTING HONEY BEE COLONIES

- Commercial double deep split
- Swarm Cell Splitting
- Walk Away Split



METHODS FOR SPLITTING HONEY BEE COLONIES

Commercial double deep split:

Needs:

- ✓ Double deep hive with at least 9-10 frames of brood
- ✓ Additional empty (no frames) deep hive body
- ✓ Another bottom board and cover
- ✓ A mated caged queen

METHODS FOR SPLITTING HONEY BEE COLONIES

Commercial double deep split:

Method:

1. Take top box off the hive & equalize the brood, pollen, Nectar to the best you can.

New Hive Configuration :-

Spare
Honey
Pollen
Eggs
Eggs
Eggs
Eggs
Pollen
Honey
Spare

METHODS FOR SPLITTING HONEY BEE COLONIES

Commercial double deep split:

Method Cont.

2. Put empty deep box on top of the original hive.

3. Take each frame of the top box and shake all the bees off the frames. Do this until all the bees are in the bottom box.



Commercial double deep split:

Method Cont.

4. Smoke down all the bees into the bottom box and remove the empty deep box.

5. Install a queen excluder on the bottom box and then place the box of bee-less frames on top of the excluder.



METHODS FOR SPLITTING HONEY BEE COLONIES

Commercial double deep split:

Method Cont.

6. After 2 to 24 hours, come back to this colony and pull the top box off.

Install this top box in a new location with its own caged queen, bottom board, and cover.

METHODS FOR SPLITTING HONEY BEE COLONIES

Commercial double deep split:

Method Cont.

7. After 5 days release or make sure they released the queen.

Any Questions?

METHODS FOR SPLITTING HONEY BEE COLONIES

Swarm Cell Splitting

Needs:

- ✓ Nuc or deep hive body box(s) with the works
- ✓ You will need to find the old queen
- ✓ Deep frames of foundation or drawn comb.

Note: frames of foundation is not giving the bees more room (this should not be done to prevent swarming).



METHODS FOR SPLITTING HONEY BEE COLONIES

Swarm Cell Splitting

Method:

1. Set up your new hive boxes next to the hive that needs to be split.
2. Take a frame from the hive and look for the queen and queen cells.

Note: be thorough! Do not miss the queen or queen cells. One missed Queen cell and they will be in a tree!



METHODS FOR SPLITTING HONEY BEE COLONIES

Swarm Cell Splitting

Method Cont.

3. If you find the queen, set it aside.

- If you find a frame with swarm cells, put this frame in your new box.
- If the queen is on the same frame as the swarm cells, you will need to move her to another frame without swarm cells.



METHODS FOR SPLITTING HONEY BEE COLONIES

Swarm Cell Splitting

Method Cont.

4. Repeat the search with every frame in the original colony.
5. If you have many frames with many swarm cells, then you may want to make multiple splits.
6. Be sure your new colony has at least a frame of pollen and nectar/honey.



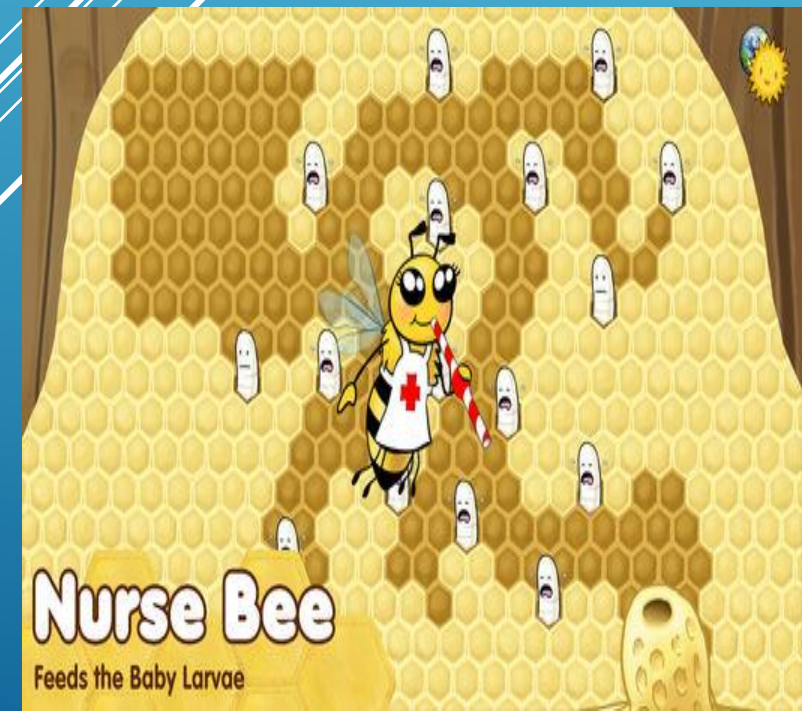
METHODS FOR SPLITTING HONEY BEE COLONIES

Swarm Cell Splitting

Method Cont.

7. Shake some nurse bees from original colony's brood frames into your new split (give the split some extra bees because some of them will fly back to the original colony).

8. Close up your hives and move your split away from the original hive.



METHODS FOR SPLITTING HONEY BEE COLONIES

Swarm Cell Splitting

Method Cont.

9. If the queen cells are capped, then you should check in 18-20 days for eggs and brood.

If they were uncapped you should wait a few more days.



METHODS FOR SPLITTING HONEY BEE COLONIES

Any Questions

On

Swarm Cell Splitting

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METHODS FOR SPLITTING HONEY BEE COLONIES

Walk Away Split

Needs:

- A strong double deep hive with at least 9-10 frames of brood.
- An additional bottom board and cover for your new colony.

METHODS FOR SPLITTING HONEY BEE COLONIES

Walk Away Split

Method:

1. Reshuffle the frames of your colony so that you have at least three frames of eggs and/or very young larva. As well as pollen and nectar.
2. Make sure the queen is not on these frames. **Note: this will not work if you have the queen in this box.**



METHODS FOR SPLITTING HONEY BEE COLONIES

Walk Away Split

Method:

3. Place the queen-less box in the location of the old colony. With the new bottom board and cover.

4. Move the queen-right colony away from the old location.

METHODS FOR SPLITTING HONEY BEE COLONIES

Walk Away Split

Method:

5. Wait 4-5 weeks and check to see if a new queen is laying. (I like to take a peek on day 3 to see if they made queen cells out of the eggs).

METHODS FOR SPLITTING HONEY BEE COLONIES

Any Questions

On

Walk away splits?

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