



To help improve both the quality of queens produced and the success rates achieved

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL QUEEN REARING

Basic Requirements

- Young larvae from the Breeder Queen
- Cell bars and grafting tools
- Queenless starter – emergency response
- Queenright finisher – supercedure response
- Abundant nurse bees – 5 to 15 days old
- Good food supply

The Breeder Queen

Breeder Box



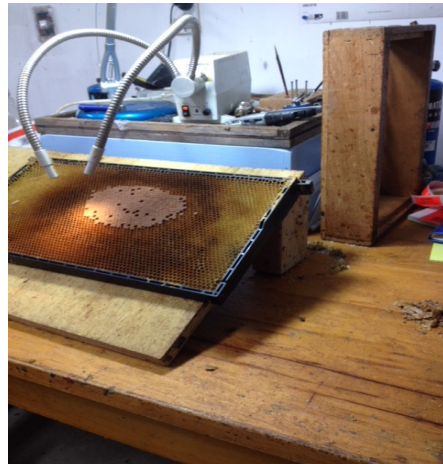
Inside Breeder Box



Cell Bars and Frames



The Grafting Room



Swarm Box / Starters

Swarm Box



and 4 rows Starter Boxes on Racks



Finishers

Well started Cells & good
Jelly visible



Mature Cells, 3 Bars,
30 Cells Finished



Golden Rules

- Never shake your frame of grafting larvae or your cells being transferred or harvested. Always brush the bees off.
- There is usually at least one week lead time in preparing the cell-building hives and breeder before you graft.
- Keep feeding every evening unless there has been a strong flow on that day.
- Prior to starting the graft, write the intended harvest date on the top bar of each frame.
- Beware of rogue queen cells. In the finishing colonies every frame above the queen excluder must be checked for rogue cells on a weekly basis.

Results

Nice Cell

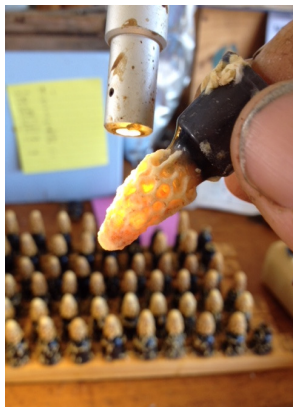


"Torpedoed"



Harvesting

Candling a Ripe Cell



Cell Protectors



Conclusion

You may have the right breeder, the best equipment and the right technique but your results rely heavily on nutrition and nurse bees.

MY THANKS to
Congress for your
Invitation
and to Rob Atkinson
and my wife Pauline
for their help

