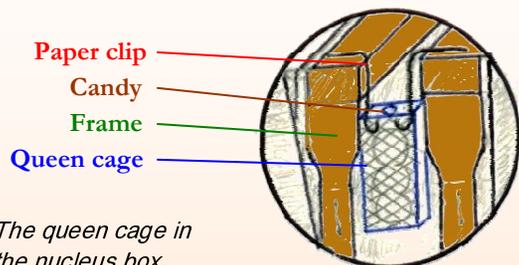


- Hook one end of the paper clip on the upper part of the wire mesh of the queen cage. Then, open the other end of the paper clip so that it will hang on the frame in the box.



The queen cage in the nucleus box.

- Place the queen cage firmly between two ( 2 ) frames in the nucleus box.
- Spray the package bees once more with the sugar syrup
- Make a space in the nucleus box at least one frame wide. Gently pour the bees into the box; first over the queen cage and then into the space created in the nucleus box.
- Cover the nucleus box and place the entrance feeder filled with sugar syrup . Reduce the entrance of the nucleus box between 1 – 1/2 inch in width.
- Lean the empty package up against the front entrance of the hive and leave it there.



Entrance Feeder: A jar filled with syrup is placed upside down in the place provided on top

## 2 USING THE NUCLEUS BOX

New hives also come in nucleus boxes. The entrance is usually blocked with a strip of wood and a wire mesh on top for ventilation.

- After placing the nucleus box in the selected location, remember to remove the strip of wood blocking the entrance immediately.
- Place the entrance feeder filled with sugar syrup.



### HIVE MONITORING TIPS

After placement observe the following:

- Do not return to the hives until 7 days after hive introduction. Remove the queen cage at this point. If the queen had not been removed by the worker bees, open either end of the cage and release her into the nucleus box.
- Remove the entrance feeder when hives show signs of revival:
  - after 2 weeks during the dry season,
  - after 4 weeks during the wet season
- Continue inspection at least once per week.

### HIVE TRANSFER

Prepare for transfer of the new nucleus box to a brood box after 75% of frames have been drawn.

For hives introduced with:

- packaged bees - 4 weeks
- nucleus box - 3 weeks.



# APICULTURE

## Honey Production

## INTRODUCING HIVES INTO YOUR APIARY SUCCESSFULLY

by  
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## WHY INTRODUCE HIVES?

1. To start a new apiary
2. To increase the size of an apiary
3. To introduce a new specie (type) of bees.

The best time to introduce a new hive is during the *cool of the day that is preferably non-windy*. The beginner beekeeper should introduce two (2) or more hives into his new apiary, at any one time.

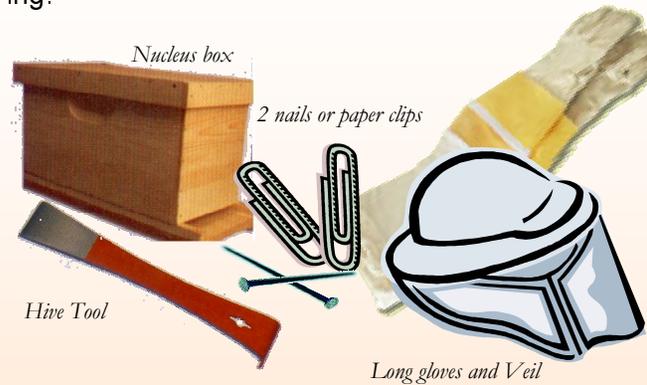
## PREPARATION

*Know where you want to place your new hives.* In addition ensure that:

1. **The apiary environment is clean.** Old, unwanted and diseased frames and boxes lying around the apiary, must be gathered and burnt.
2. **Treat the soil for ants especially** around the immediate areas in the apiary where the hives are to be placed. Do this **8 days before** placing the new hives.
3. **Sterilize all equipment**, eg. hive tool and smoker, using hot water. *Or*, place the hive tool into the smoker with flaming fire.
4. Place nucleus boxes with frames on the hive stands in the selected location within the apiary

## EQUIPMENT AND PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

To introduce a new hive you will need the following:



1. A nucleus box in which the new colony will be placed.
2. A jar filled with sugar syrup for feeding.
3. A spray bottle (without any trace of chemical) filled with a mixture of sugar syrup.
4. 2 paperclips or 2 clean nails for handling of the queen cage.
5. Protective clothing (veil and bee-suit) with the hive tool at hand.

*Nb. 1. No smoker is needed for this operation  
2. Sugar syrup is made from sugar and water at a 1:1 ratio*

## INTRODUCING THE HIVES

Hives are introduced two ways into an apiary.

1. Using packaged bees and
2. By nucleus box



1

### PACKAGED BEES

This package contains the hive with the queen enclosed in a 'queen cage' separated from the rest of the bees.

## HIVING THE PACKAGED BEES

If you are unable to transfer the package bees into a nucleus box immediately, ensure that the *bees are stored in a cool and quiet place*. However, **transfer hives as soon as possible**.

1. Observe the packaged hive carefully ensuring that most of the bees are alive.
2. Spray **all** the bees with the sugar syrup before opening the package. This calms the bees.
4. Gently shake the bees to the bottom of the box. Use the hive tool to remove the lid and carefully take out the queen cage. Replace the lid immediately.
5. Hold the queen cage **upright** while observing the activity of the queen and the young bees in the cage. Make sure that the queen is alive.
6. Spray the sugar syrup **once** in the queen cage. Water can also be used (you will notice the young bees begin feeding right away).
7. Using the nail pierce a hole through the candy in the queen cage **without** damaging the queen, while holding the queen cage upright (candy end facing up).



The queen cage: A wire mesh is stapled to enclose the queen. The blue arrow points to the small hole where the candy is placed when it comes in the package. The cage should always be held upright as the red arrow indicates.