



## Package Bee Installation Instructions

### ***Congratulations on your new package of bees!***

While there are many ways to install your bees, we have found this way to be the easiest and simplest to explain for beginners. Good luck! Your hive(s) should be assembled, painted and located at their site BEFORE the bees arrive so they can be installed without much delay. Bees will do best if installed immediately. If you cannot install the bees due to circumstances such as weather, store them (for up to a day) in a cool, dark area (Garage) and spray with a light mist of 1:1 sugar syrup.

Getting Ready You will need:

- Protective clothing of your choice (veil, jacket or suit, gloves, etc.)
- Hive tool
- Rubber band
- Feeders and syrup (Pollen Patties are optional)
- Syrup in a spray bottle
- Hive set up (hive stand, bottom board, one deep with 10 frames, feeder, inner cover and outer cover). You will only need 8 frames if using 8 frame equipment.
- Your package of bees!

### **Step 1: Preparing your Equipment and the Bees**

When you are ready to install, lightly spray the package with room temperature sugar syrup. This will help calm the bees before installing them into the hive. Spraying them will also make the bees less likely to fly. With your equipment in its location, open the hive to expose the frames. Take 4-5 frames out and take one and place the rubber band vertically (up and down) around the frame. Set aside. This will be the frame used to hold the queen cage in place once you remove her from the package.

### **Step 2: Opening the Package and Removing the Queen Cage**

Remove the thin wooden cover from the top of the package. Now you will see a metal tab and the can of syrup exposed. Carefully remove the metal tab and the attached queen cage. Replace the wooden cover so that bees do not exit from the hole left by the queen cage. Examine the queen cage and verify that the queen is alive.

### **Step 3: Installing the Queen Cage on a Frame**

One end of the queen cage contains candy. If there is a cork on the candy end, remove it. Bees will eat the candy and release the queen in a few days. **DO NOT remove the cork on the end with no candy.** Place the cage (screen facing down) about half way down the frame between the rubber band and the frame you prepared earlier. This is very important to ensure the bees can take care of the Queen while she is still in the cage. Snug up the adjoining frame leaving space on one side. (Optional method: if you have a winter rim/ imrie shim, you can place the queen cage *screen side down* across the center frames). Continue with step 4.

#### **Step 4: Installing the Remaining Bees**

Firmly bump the package on the ground to dislodge bees from the syrup can, holding on to the thin wooden cover to prevent bees from flying. Remove the syrup can using your hive tool. Shake as many of the bees as possible directly over the frame containing the queen. You may have to bump the package again and shake the remaining bees. If afterwards, there are additional bees left in the package, lean the package against the entrance of the hive and they will find their way into the hive. Slowly insert each additional frame one at a time being careful not to crush any bees.

#### **Step 5: Feeding**

When installing bees in new equipment it is important to feed, as it takes a lot of energy to draw out (build comb) in new frames. There are many ways to feed but here are a few tips:

- If you are using a hive top feeder, place it above your inner cover.
- USE an inner cover if you are using a pail feeder or boardman feeders in the hive. Place these feeders on top of the inner cover so the bees have access to the syrup. Next, place another deep (or two mediums) around the in-hive feeder. Close the hole on the inner cover with tape to prevent robbing.
- You may also use an entrance feeder or baggie feeder.
- We recommend using pollen patties if there is no pollen available from flowering trees and plants or if the weather is due to be cold/ wet. Place patties directly on to the top bars of the frames.
- When using liquid feed in the spring, syrup should be 1 pound of sugar per 1 pound (pint) of water.

After feeding, close the hive. The entrance should be reduced to the smaller opening on your entrance reducer.

Continue feeding until the colony has built out approximately 80 percent of the frames in the first box.

Add another box and once approximately 80% of the frames are drawn out in both boxes stop feeding, remove the feeder, and add a super.

**Three to Five days Out:** Check that the queen has been released. If she is still in the cage, carefully use a nail or something similar to make a small hole in the candy to aid the bees in freeing the queen. Leave the queen cage in the same location if she is in the cage; remove if the queen is out. Plan to reexamine the hive 3 days later if the Queen was not released at which time you direct release her.

#### **Two Weeks Out: Checking for Eggs**

You now can examine the colony to verify that the queen is laying eggs. You should see eggs and larvae at this point. It is not necessary to find the queen; you know she is present by simply observing eggs and larvae. If you do not see either eggs or larvae, give us a call and we can help further diagnose your situation.