

## SWARM CONTROL



Clustered



In flight

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## Taking a swarm. What Information Do You Want?



- Location
- Height above ground
- Position
- Size
- Arrival time
- Public present
- Landowner
- Accessibility

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## Taking a swarm What Equipment Do You Need?

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|--------------------|-----------------------|
| *Skep/ Box         | *Hand water sprayer   |
| *Large Sheet       | *Small block or stone |
| *Smoker            | Small saw             |
| *Veil & Gloves     | Rope                  |
| *Secateurs/loppers | Old frame             |
| *Bee Brush         | Steps/ladder          |

\* Always needed

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## Managing a swarm. Hiving.

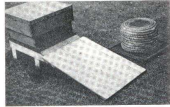


Fig. 97. Hive set on stand with sliding hiving board ready for hiving swarm.



Fig. 98. The swarm is dumped on to the hiving board.



Fig. 100. A simple way of hiving a swarm. Bees are dumped in at the top using an empty paper cup as a funnel.

**Hive a swarm in the evening;  
Hive a swarm on new foundation.  
Do not feed for 5-6 days.  
Test for Varroa.  
After 3 weeks examine for brood disease.**

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## Managing a swarm. Swarm cells.

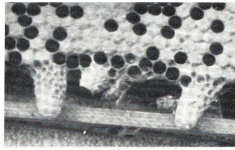


Fig. 102. The formation of queen cells gives the beekeeper a measure of control.

**Queen cells on the edge of the brood comb.  
Several in number.  
Fewer eggs in worker cells.  
Queen reduced in size.  
Worker activity sluggish.**

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## SWARM CONTROL



**Examination:** Every **7-9 Days** Queen not clipped..  
Every **14 Days** Queen clipped.

### First Signs:

**Outside the Hive:** Inactivity & Bunching at Hive entrance.  
Scout bees around shed, eaves & boxes.

### Inside the Hive:

Q.cups with Egg.  
Developing Q. cells. 12 – 30+  
Reduced egg laying.  
Queen reduced in size.



Queen cells on comb edges



Queen emerging

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## SWARM CONTROL



- 1 Remove all Queen Cells**  
Crude, inefficient, time gained perhaps.  
No extra equipment needed.
  
- 2 Shook swarm**  
Crude but effective.  
Another site needed >3miles away.  
Empty matchbox/Q.cage; Carrying box;  
Empty hive; BC with foundation at new site.  
  
In original hive leave ONE Q. cell
  
- 3 Artificial swarm**  
Empty hive, BC with foundation; same apiary.

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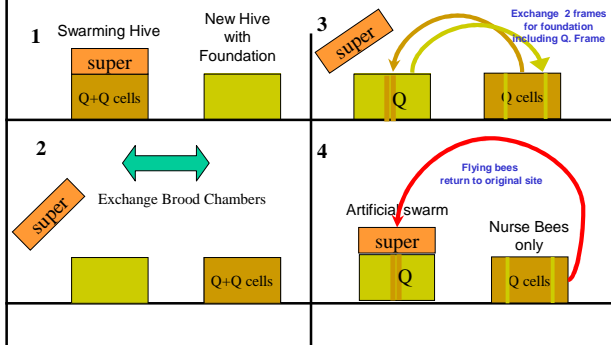
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## SWARM CONTROL

**The Artificial Swarm - Only works well in warm weather; with strong stock; & a good nectar flow ; feeding is beneficial.**




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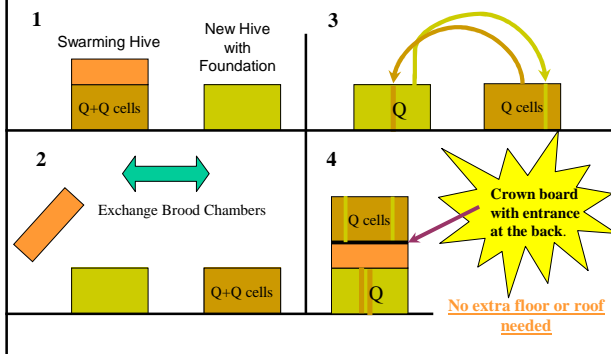
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## SWARM CONTROL

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## SWARM CONTROL

### Options with the developing Queen cells

1. Further weaken to stop castes and develop to new colony or leave ONE queen cell.
2. Divide into 2/3/4 nucleus hives.
3. Reunite with original colony.
4. Use new queens for requeening.



**BUT This may not be a suitable colony to breed from!!**

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