

Very Simple Queen Rearing.

You can start this as soon as drones are in evidence, possibly late March early April.

- 1st find the queen from a colony with the preferred traits and keep her in a queen clip or cage.
- Take all the frames of brood, bar two, and put them in the 2nd brood box on an adjacent site.
- Replace these removed brood frames preferably with drawn foundation in the 1st box in the original location.
- If the queen is not marked this could be an ideal time to do so, either with a white dot or if you know the year of her birth with this appropriate colour for the year.
- The queenless colony will now start to produce queen cells and these should be sealed after 10 days.
- These can be cut out of the surrounding foundation and placed in small queenless colonies.
- Alternatively if you operate a 2 brood box system you can split the boxes with the queen and the flying bees below and the brood frames above a Snelgrove board. The queen cell can be added to the top box and the Snelgrove board will allow an entrance/exit to the top box.



When this queen cell is capped it's easily removed, by cutting it out of some of the adjacent comb. Queen cells adjacent to the top bar are much harder to remove without damaging the back of the cell.

- These virgin queens will mature and seek to mate with the local drones after 23+ days.
- The queen will then start to lay eggs and after 2 months their qualities can be assessed so that they can be used to replace old queens with undesirable qualities or those whose vigour is in decline.
- Replacing queens every year ensures you have a vigorous queen heading the colony, with the added advantage that they are less likely to swarm.

John Farrow April 2014