

QUEEN GRANT PARTICIPATION 2018

You must agree to follow the protocol described in this document to participate in the grant in 2018. While this isn't the only way to introduce a new queen, in order to preserve the integrity of the data, it is important that every field researcher (that's you!) follow the same protocol. If you want to do something else, you're free to do that, but you'll need to buy your own queens to do it. Grant Queen recipients must do it this way.

You will need: **(a)** a strong queen right hive— the equivalent of at least 4 deep frames covered on both sides wall-to-wall with brood, **(b)** an empty 5 frame nuke box, or a 10 frame box with follower board (s) to reduce the space to 5 frames, **(c)** 5 frames of drawn comb, **(d)** a place to temporarily hold (isolate) a frame with a queen on it (like another nuc box or a queen hotel or something) and **(e)** a mechanism for feeding the bees that are going into the nuke box. You should not agree to accept a Grant Queen unless you have everything described in this paragraph. You should have the equipment on the day that you get the grant Queen.

1. Find the queen in the mother hive. You can start this a week or so early by using a queen excluder between the boxes, but no matter how you do it, you **must** locate the Queen in the mother hive. Remove her with the frame on which you find her, and isolate that frame, so she doesn't fly way or get mixed up later. It would probably be best to find and isolate her frame even before you go pick up your Grant Queen.
2. Now that the mother colony is queen-less, remove 3 frames of brood of different ages and place them in the center of the nuke box, without shaking off the bees. Be especially sure to take some capped brood that will hatch out within a few days, since the Queen will need those soon-to-be empty cells in which to lay once she is released. Also, double check these frames, plus the next two you will put in, to make sure there wasn't a queen cell or a second queen in the parent hive. That happens about 2% of the time, and if you see either one, a second queen or a queen cell, get rid of them.
3. Place the grant queen cage in the middle of the little brood chamber that you've created in the nuc now. Make sure the cage is properly oriented vertically, the supplier will give you instructions on this subject. You may need to rig up a hanger, or a thumb tack, or a rubber band, and you'll probably have to cut away some wax.
4. Remove 2 more frames from the parent, more or less filled with nectar/honey, pollen, and empty space, and place them in spaces 1 and 5 of the nuke box. If you're using a larger box, arrange your follower board (s) so as to be sure that you have limited the bees to a 5 frame colony.
5. Remove a couple of remaining brood frames from the parent and shake the bees off them into the nuc box, then put the frames back where they were. The older bees will fly back to the parent colony, but the younger nurse bees will stay where you shake them. Arrange whatever feeding mechanism you're going to use to feed your nuc, and close it up and put it wherever it's going to be kept.
6. Remove your original queen from wherever she's been isolated on her frame, and put that frame, and her, back where she was in the parent hive. Consolidate the frames in the parent hive around her so that all the brood frames that are left comprise a new brood chamber with the old queen in the middle. The brood chamber will be smaller than the original of course. Place empty drawn comb to the left and the right of that little brood chamber so it can be expanded as the old queen re-asserts herself and begins to lay.

REMEMBER THAT THIS PROCESS ISN'T SWARM CONTROL FOR YOUR MOTHER HIVE. YOU'RE PUTTING THE ORIGINAL QUEEN BACK IN HER COLONY WITH PLENTY OF BROOD LEFT AND NO REASON NOT TO SWARM. SO YOU NEED TO MAKE INDEPENDENT SWARM CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS MOTHER COLONY.