

## Introducing Mailed Queens to An Established Hive (Bill Turner)

As a general rule, it is easier to get a queen accepted by a colony during a nectar flow. If no nectar is being brought in, acceptance will be helped by a feed. Other considerations include:

- **give the bees the time and opportunity to get used to their new queen.** She herself should be protected by a mesh allowing her to maintain 'physical' contact with the workers (by exuding royal pheromones at the heart of the colony).
- **Younger bees accept queens more readily than old bees.**
- **Smaller colonies of bees accept queens more readily than larger colonies.**

The following method will also prevent any interruptions to the present queens' egg laying.

Equipment: a super similar to those in the hive with drawn frames

inner cover with exit

material to cover inner cover's passageway

Locate the hive's queen and place this frame to one side.

You'll want to remove 2 – 4 frames of capped brood from the established hive with attending bees. These frames will go into the spare super while the empty frames you remove can be given to the established hive. Retain the integrity of the brood nest by placing them on either side of it. An additional frame or two of honey from the established hive will allow attending bees to remain and look after the brood and new queen.

Place the inner cover on the hive with its exit to the rear of the original hive. This will allow any older bees to leave and return to the hive below. The passage way(s) in the inner cover should be covered over with a sheet of something the bees can't remove. I also like to add a sheet of paper towel sprayed with vanilla water to mask colony odors. Position the super and brood on the inner cover. If it seems there are not many bees in it, shake a frame or two the bees from the hive on to it.

Now place the queen cage between the two central frames of brood. Be sure the candy hole is facing up. This will insure that when the candy is cleaned out that the passage is clear of any dead attendants. Cover the hive and leave it for at least 5 days. If at this time the queen is still not released, use a nail to widen the hole or if the bees are not acting aggressively towards her I would spray some sugar water on her (so she can't fly) and release her on to a frame.

Once she is laying well in this situation you can find the old queen below, remove her, place a sheet on newspaper with a few rips between the hive and this to super. Put the inner cover back on top and replace the cover. Within a few days the bees will remove the paper and the two groups should mingle and you will have a new queen accepted and laying.

If you have an excluder you could place it and a piece of newspaper between the two hives and run a double queen setup for awhile.

Good Luck