



WHEN YOU GET YOUR COLONY HOME

1. Place brood box on hive stand (already positioned – see checklist “Site Preparation”)
2. Leave the entrance guard in place for 10-15 minutes
3. Standing to the side, remove entrance guard in a smooth manner.
 - a. When you remove the entrance guard, a gush of air enters the hive. Soon after, bees will fly out of the entrance a short distance. If they have been locked in for a longer period of time, many bees will fly out to defecate. If you have already removed yourself some distance, the bees will not bother you.
4. Walk away

The next morning, the bees will re-orient themselves to their new site and hive position, using the sun.

You will probably need to **feed** your new colony for the first couple of weeks. Please check with the beekeeper who provided your colony as over feeding can be detrimental over time.

To do this, make a sugar syrup using 1 part water to 1 part white sugar (must be white not raw). Dissolve completely and cool to room temperature. You can make a big batch and keep in the fridge for two – three days - although warm it to room temperature before you feed to the girls.

Do not keep for too long as mould will grow – definitely do not feed mouldy sugar syrup to bees.

Open the hive lid and place your feeder on top of the frames. Fill the feeder with syrup and remember to add something for them to land on such as a sponge or stick. Most bees will not need this and will sit on the edge to feed, but some will land on the syrup and can easily drown if her sisters do not rescue her or she cannot manage to use her wings to “swim” to the edge. I think it is an easy precaution to unnecessary bee loss.

You can also use a zippy-lock bag filled with syrup. Lay it on top of the frames and make several pinpricks in the bag.

Check the feeder every other day. If the girls are not using it, you can remove the feeder and leave them to it. If the feeder is empty every time you check, you may need a second feed tray.

Continue for two or more weeks – this will depend on:

1. Are the girls still using all the syrup?
2. Is there anything flowering at your site to provide an alternative nectar source?
3. Has the amount of uncapped and capped brood increased or decreased?
4. Can you see large amounts of pollen stored?
5. Is there any sign of brood disease – chalkbrood, sacbrood, AFB, EFB?
6. Are there significant numbers of small hive beetle present?
7. Have they started drawing the new foundation frames?

Once the bees are drawing the foundation frames and beginning to fill with honey, you can cease feeding.

Continuing to feed when there is available forage for the bees can lead to “lazy” bees and/or to robber bees entering the hive to steal the honey.

Check the brood frames every couple of weeks at this stage of colony buildup. See Checklist **“Checking Brood Box”**

Register your hive

Start a diary