

SUCCESSFUL BEEKEEPING

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KELOWNA BEE BREEDER CIRCLE: 2020 PROGRAM

LOCAL STOCK IMPROVEMENT Program under Covid 19

We are a group of beekeepers who keep and rear Vernon stock honey bees.

My cardiologist told me that my heart is working on 2 cylinders instead of 8 and can last another 10 years, but he also tell me that I have to give up physical labor while keeping my mind busy. For many years several of us have been maintaining Vernon stock, under principles that I learned in that project and followed for 50 years.

Under Covid 19 we cannot have large group of people therefore participation is by invitation only. PARTICIPANTS ARE PAYED FOR THEY WORK BY CELS AND OTHER PRODUCTS.

For my part: **I WILL PROVIDE ALL BREEDING STOCK.** To pay for yard maintenance, tractor, cell cleaning and replacements, frames, feed, medicines, and treatments. As the organizer I keep all surplus cells, virgins, and starters/finishers to convert into nucs, and will rear queens and sell them

The dates are reference for the man only. We select the day 0 zero by mother nature calendar: usually weekend after last bloom of apples is gone, I have 50 years of records and weekend is for many participants bee days.

In 18th April for our area, **36 days before 0.** we meet to unpack colonies and select possible breeder Mothers by evaluating how well they wintered; we also factor in last summer's performance (honey production, brood pattern, temperament). **They will also be Father breeders and will** be given drone combs to produce drones for mating **OUR Virgins...** Hives will be marked accordingly and treated for mites with MITEGONE Formic acid treatment. PARTICIPANTS are expected to do the same to their hives.

By 14th May **10 days before "0" Or earlier.** Bob Chisholm is providing all strong hives and bees for conversion into starters, finishers and incubators. Hives will be inspected for strength, disease and quality of queen; they receive preventative AFB treatment, queen excluder and Dadant to prevent swarming. Bob get these back one day before day zero with their queen and with swarm control done, and they are ready to produce honey.

By 19th May **in afternoon 5 days before "0"** We found QUEEN and cage her. Than we rearrange hive all emerging brood into lover box laving one honey out. IN Space in middle we shake sugar sprayed bees on clean perfect empty fully drawn comb with the NO tag and Queen transferred to it. IT is put against Fully capped comb. The Queen does not have another space to lay in. The eggs deposited into that combs will be used on the grafting day **TO GRAFT and produce CELS.**

On 23rd May **One day prior to day zero**, and in good flying weather, two Bob hives facing the same direction in each four pack will be removed, and in their place (in the middle), we put the equipment to create the starters. From the bottom up, the starters consist of a single bottom board, a queen excluder, 2 wet honey Dadant boxes, and a standard box that will contain 4 combs and 2 inner feeders with 1:1 **thin feed**. The field bees will soon start populating this new starter.

Meanwhile, the queens are found in the donor hives, stored on the comb where they were found, and placed in a screened nuk box. Then, each donor hive gives one comb of open honey and one of pollen to the starter. Then 60% of the nurse bees are shaken from the donor hives into the starters., over the queen excluder to catch second queen. All of the combs except for the one honey, one pollen and graft comb are put back into the participant's hive. 2 frames of foundation are placed in the top box of the lender hive to replace donated comb, and the queen is returned to the lower box. The donor hive is screened and moved immediately, to be loaded for transport back to the lender's home yard.

In the end, the starters will have bees from two different colonies and two combs of honey and two combs of pollen. The remaining two comb spaces in the starters will be filled by grafting combs on the same day, from my breeders on each pallet where there were four lender hives, there will now be two starters.

Day zero (May 24th) **is DAY "0"** grafting day. Few years ago, I converted my honey house into a temperature and humidity-controlled space, this year there will be 3 grafters in comfort. Participating grafters bring a headlamp, two Chinese grafting tools, and glasses to see well. Magnification glasses or lenses are also helpful.

GRAFT RULES: The graft comb and grafted frames with 3 bars of 16 cells are stored and transported to and from the yard in heated and humidified boxes, ensuring success. We graft only 3 bars of 16 cells from each GRAFT comb to eliminate inbreeding. Frames are numbered and bars named so that the results of each grafter are accurate.

When we distribute the mature cells, we take a maximum of 10 cells from each bar, ensuring there cannot be more than 10 sisters. (If a participant has just a few, we make sure that they don't have any sisters, because we have 18 mothers).

Also, in our system, we have organized to do the following, with dates appropriate for our area:

May 25 & 26, on both days in the afternoon, Artificial Swarms will be produced.

Learn how by reading "Selling and buying bees in 21st century" on WWW.MITEGONE.COM: <http://www.mitegone.com/pdfpages/Buy%20sell%20bees%20BeeCulture%20Feb%202019.pdf>

Participants may choose to sell their hives as artificial swarms, as some want to learn this method so it will be part of this year's program, and may also be next year, too.

May 28, (Graft Day + 4 Days, or 0+4): Queen cells are ready to go into nucs, in cell protectors, at the same time as nucs are being made. This happens until **June 2nd**.

June 1 DAY 0+8 we do **incubators, swarm shaking and nuk making.**

This is how I will sell my colonies, make nucs and rear the new queens and populations for next year. I will invite all participants to come and join me to learn.

June 2 (Graft Day + 9 Days, or 0+9): All unused queen cells are caged and placed in frames that accommodate these cages. The virgin queens are born on day 10 or 11. They can be sold direct or mailed for mating in anyone's nucs. Also, on this day, a virgin bank is created to store any excess caged virgins, and the starters are converted into mating nucs and can be sold.

This is where payment for my involvement comes: 1/3 of proven stock cells will be available to all beekeepers to buy, and they can rear their own new queens for wintering at a reasonable cost. HOW:

<http://www.mitegone.com/pdfpages/SUCCESSFUL%20BEEKEEPING%20REQUEENING.pdf>

June 5 (Graft Day + 12 Days, or 0+12): On this day all nucs are checked to make sure the queen has emerged from her cell. If she has not, we will replace the cell with the caged virgin.

June 7 11 (Graft Day + 14 to 17 Days or 0+14 - 17): By now cells and virgins must be used.

June 11 (Graft Day + 17 Days or 0+17): The virgins are ready to mate. Watch for nice calm sunny afternoon.

June 18 (Graft Day + 24 Days or 0+24): If there was nice weather they should be mated and laying. But give her another week to prove it.

July 2 (Graft Day + 38 Days or 0+38): If not laying she is stale and it's time to unite it with mated one.

1-15 ARTIFICIAL SWARMS In to your drawn comb, screen box, bottom, and top. 250.00

QUEENS, CELLS, VIRGINS for re-queening and mating your own queens must be ordered by **MAY 1ST**

Late May select Tested MATED breeder QUEENS in 4 frames your nuke. 350.00

Early August select Tested MATED IN JUNE QUEENS 75.00

June to July June mated Vernon Stock QUEENS 45.00

XXX QUEEN cells in protectors in person only with proper incubator 10.00

XXX CAGED VIRGINS In person or it can be mailed. 12.00

MAILING QUEENS OR VIRGINS in up to 20 In JZBZ box by CP 15.00

CANADA POST Does not guarantee live delivery it is at your responsibility. Postage: \$