# **SPLITS AND STARTS: BIOLOGICAL MITICIDE VIA HONEYBEE INCREASE**



## **CONTEMPORARY METHOD OF SPLITTING**

To make each split: Take two brood frames plus one frame of honey and give them two shakes of bees off brood combs along with old queen and then move two miles away. On queen-less splits, move two miles away and then give a cell or caged queen



You need to move these starts two miles away so that the bees stay put because there is a lot of stress on that start to seal the unsealed brood. By giving a cell or queen you have relieved that two-frame split from having to raise a queen which they would not be able to do with quality

# DOOLITTLE'S APPROACH TO MAKING SPLITS



Doolittle gave the bee-less brood to a support colony above an excluder (as explained in chapter 4 of his book). One week later he would remove the brood box which would then have all sealed brood and place it in the same yard and give it a cell that he raised by grafting in a full-strength cell builder. The split would work because there were enough bees that stayed with the split and there was no stress because all the brood was sealed and the cell was already produced



Honey frames +

bees + 1/3 brood

frame + old queen

Doolittle put honey frames into the brood nest and then shook all the bees into it. He then added a brood frame that was about one-third full along with the old queen. Next, he put on sections with a bait section so that the bees would move all the honey that was in the brood nest into the sections (bees will not tolerate honey in the brood nest). The one-third frame of brood would hold the queen and give her room to lay so that she would not swarm

# <u>MEL'S MODULE</u>: HEALTHY, RAPID, POPULATION EXPANSION IN 3 EASY STEPS

#### Sealed Brood, Same Yard, Successful Queens



### **HONEYBEE COLONY:** THE SUM OF ALL







## **COLONY REARING FROM START TO FINISH:**

Modern Beekeeping Is Tailored Beekeeping—Your Target Defines Your Approach



• Harvest May honey starts

# **GETTING A FRESH START: YOUNG COLONIES SURVIVE WINTER**

A July Start often appears as if it isn't building up enough to overwinter successfully. The reason for this smaller amount of bees (at first) is that there is a pause in the brood cycle during July until the new queen emerges from her queen cell, takes her mating flights, and begins to lay eggs which don't mature and emerge as new bees until 21 days later. So a fall start that appears to have only two seams of bees will quickly jump to six or seven frames of bees when the new brood begins to emerge.

These new bees are different than the summer bees. Spring and summer bees only live 6-8 weeks as they quickly work themselves to death. Summer bees literally work their wings off as they become frayed and torn on foliage and whatever else lies in their path. Fall bees live throughout the winter since they don't have much work to do. They merely have to eat to keep the cluster warm, take an occasional cleansing flight, and have minimal brood to care for until spring.

# **OVERWINTERING STRATEGIES: KEEPING COLONIES ALIVE AND HAPPY**

Fall feeding and comb drawing

- Sugar
- Fondant

Candy board as artificial deep honey chamber

- 1/2 inch top entrance
- Ability to fill as needed

Keeping brood nest in top chamber near candy board

Wrapping hives

Sunbathing

Windbreaks

#### DANNY SLABAUGH CANDY BRICKS



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