Making colony splits

An inexact procedure

Splits – Why?

Queens  Colony increase  Temporary
Wintering Nucs (Splits)
Still in the learning phase. Winter mortality is high.

What you will need

Making colony splits is a relative task. There are no specifics but there are a lot of generalities

- Weather
- Bee food stocks
- Bees & brood
- Equipment
Parent colony characteristics...

- High population
- Disease-free
- Queen location
- Confusion

Estimate – it’s all you can do

- Parent colony sizes will vary
- Earlier in the season, the larger the split
- Larger splits set the parent back more
- Bees from splits left the yard will drift back to the parent
- There will be bees everywhere
Lots of confusion
Queen problems
Drifting bees

YOU SHOULD EXPECT....

Common split sizes
3-frame 4-frame 6-frame 10-frame
It all depends.....
THE 5-FRAME SPLIT – A TRADITIONAL SIZE

Supered Split
Supered Split

Supered Split
What else could go wrong? (Robbing)

Replacement Queen or Natural?

About 50 days will be required to grow a queen and have workers begin to emerge.

If starting the process today (March 29), first new workers from queen will be emerging 50 days later (May 18)

• Losing worker bees all that time
• Will require extensive feeding
Split adjustments

- Too many bees
- Too few bees
- Brood miscalculation
- Queen mishap
- Food stores adjustment

Busted splits

Sometimes splits just don’t work. After trying to save it, at some point, re-unite them with another colony.
THANKS....

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