



Self-Sufficient Bee Colony Expansion

This is a process to expand a single, overwintered colony into eight colonies in a single year with a honey harvest. It has brood breaks that kill varroa mites. It raises locally mated queens and depends on surviving colonies, thus selecting for evolutionary fitness. It reduces the likelihood of swarming by preempting it. High honey production can be expected because during requeening, the workers have less brood to care for and have more time to build up honey stores.

“Day 1” depends on your location. It is generally when the daily temperatures average in the mid to high 60°F and **clover is in bloom** (before swarm season). In St. Louis, this was mid-April. In Wisconsin, this is late April. “Day 90” should be within normal local harvest time.

Feed 1:1 syrup and reduce entrances on nucs, as they may be robbed when small.

* If you are starting with a nucleous colony: install into hive body by day 30 (top row of flow chart) and feed. It should have 8 fr. brood by day 60; follow flow chart instructions.

† Can also create nucs for selling in spring or combine weak colonies, dispatching the weaker queen.

Read resources linked to the right for full information.

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