

Demaree

This practice was developed by Mr Demaree and originally drawn up in 1892- so it has a long time to be tested.!!

Main reason on using DEMAREE method was to prevent the Q from swarming so it is a form of swarm control which can be **adapted** for rearing Q's if started BEFORE Q cells seen.

What is the difference between Queen rearing and swarm control queen production?

(we raise the queens we want to breed from with selected genes). Selected the Queen:

Good resistance to diseases like sac brood/ nosema

Good temper, good foraging, gentle to handle, stay on the combs, don't meet and greet in the garden, non swarmy.

Most rely on selecting the right aged larvae(36hrs old) from a colony you want called a cell BREEDER. Then placing the prepared cells into a colony that wants to make a new Qs called the REARER

Need to control the drone population too(to do the raised Queens justice)but this is beyond our control here

The Breeder colony and a Rearer colony....in fact they can **be one and the same**. *If you already have nicely behaved colony*

and you want to re queen your other colony then you can rear a queen using this same one as the breeder.

Remember, swarm cells are the BEST Q cells... the ones we want.

But a colony that is forced to make queen cells does so in an emergency.... so maybe a queen raised from a larvae already too old. **If you remove a queen from a colony for 24hours they will start making queen cells**

The method relies on SPLITTING the colony.

What do we NEED?

1. A strong colony preferably on 2 brood boxes. (this can be encouraged by feeding in early spring)
The colony needs to be built up to about 16 frames of brood, plus stores and pollen.
 2. You must have a flow of nectar/ good weather and plenty of forage.
 3. Spare QX/ and Demaree board/ Snelgrove board/ or Horsley board
 4. Marked Q is helpful
- What is the main principle of any swarm control?
Separating brood from the Queen and flying bees

NOW I am ready and in the position to do (a) split to prevent swarming OR (b) to put in a Demaree /

Snelgrove board/ Horsely board to raise a new Q or 2 and create a new colony.

HOW to do it?

Day 1. Bottom Box has old queen plus 2 frames of **sealed brood** - with no queen cells on them.

Replace the QX plus the supers. Put all the **open brood** into the top box over a D/S/H board with an entrance to one side and vent hole open to allow nurse bees to come up.

Day 2 now close hole in Demaree/ Snelgrove board to create separation. Side or front entrance??

This makes the top brood box a queenless separate system who want to make queen cells.(May need feeding in a day or two)

Flying bees return to box below and nurse bees stay with the open brood.

Day 4 - go and remove all **SEALED Q cells as they are** Emergency Q cells.

Care needed to not miss any/ must not shake but brush off bees to find all emergency Q cells.

Day 10 look for matured Q cells and decide how many you want 1 or 2 or more – remove others.

Day 12/ 13/ Queens could be emerging. Need to be prepared. Queen cage/ nuc box/ Apidea.?

The Apidea need preparing 4 days in advance of being needed to introduce a ripe queen in her cell about to emerge.

OR

Introduce grafted cells/ punched cells/Jenter system

Day 1. Split the REARER colony and putting Miller frame into Breeder colony for Q to lay in (having cells already drawn out)

Day 4 Again check and remove any unwanted sealed queen cells from the top box and introduce the new Miller frame from the chosen breeder with day old larvae. PLUS a frame of pollen or two each side of the introduced frame.

Day 10 checked on number of taken cells and decide on which to keep.

Day 14 prepare to move Q cells into Apidea /nuc etc

Web sites for Dave Cushman and BIBBA are always worth looking at.