

# SWARM TRAPS AND BAIT HIVES : THE EASY WAY TO GET BEES FOR FREE. PDF, EPUB, EBOOK



## **Swarm Traps and Bait Hives | Natural Beekeeping**

The remaining bees eventually died of old age. So disappointing. But now I know that late-season swarming is a possibility here and my radar will be up. It was a pretty magical day. Keep up the amazing work and keep on inspiring other beekeepers. If you lure them to a swarm box less than feet from your apiary location, and take them offsite to reset their orientation, how long before they can be safely moved back to the apiary and

into a hive without the risk that they will return to the swarm box location in my case up in a tree? It might work with less time, but that is what I have done in the past. Mandy, for the past six yrs I have been making splits and moving hives successfully without having to take them off my property.

When I move them I like to close them up after dark. Move them either that same evening or the next day. I prefer the small opening in the entrance reducer. Stuff the entrance with the grass so the bees have to remove it in order to exit the hive. This seems to reprogram their GPS directions home. I have never had them return to their original location. I am 63 years old and have failed at beekeeping a number of times over the years, mostly because I am afraid of making mistakes or because I do things on a whim. I look forward to having fun again. I had 2 conventional hives last year, lost one over the winter dead queen I think and now this one is wanting to swarm.

I got a store-bought swarm trap yesterday — like yours in the 4th photo. I will be putting it out this weekend as well as attempting my first split. Of course I have opinions from a bunch of beekeepers about what to do and what not to do.... Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will; that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him forever in the next.

Do you mean when you catch a swarm in a lure and they build comb? If you are away, or forget a bait hive, they build the comb on the removable frames anyway. The box needs to be sited so that the drawn comb is perpendicular obviously. I usually check for a laying queen early morning or late afternoon a day or two after they arrive. Best Wishes for David. Caught a swarm using lemon grass oil in a medium 10 frame Langstroth super, with 2 frames full of old comb and the rest foundation-less frames. Reduced entrance to 2 inches. Yay for swarm season! I had a swarm move into one of my empty nucs stored under my tractor shed. Just happened to see them when they first arrived.

Got a wild hair and decided a week later to build a couple of bait hives and see what happens. One hive was 5 frame nuc size, other was 8 frame size, both deeps. That was 3 weeks ago. I just moved my 2nd bait hive captured swarm to another location for reorienting. Both were caught in the 8 frame box, none in the 5 frame. What, me complain? Last year I lost a nuc given to me by my beekeep buddy during the summer. I lost an 8 frame hive to freezing during the maple nectar flow in late February. Thanks for your blog, please keep with your advice. Question: do bees march upwards? I spotted activity 2 days ago after I forgot to put another super on my hive. They were evicting the drones. There is now a swarm. I have placed a hive on top of the old hive, but it is new.

The scouts have been in the house, and inspected the open hive when it was low to the ground. The swarm is 2 days now. Top on, or off? Lemongrass, or leave well alone? I would put the empty box somewhere else. Not on top of the existing hive. They might not want to move in so close to where they were before. Maybe closer to where the swarm is on its own stand. Lid on. On April 6, I split my hive. One month later I checked the new hive. I saw the new queen and new larvae. To catch a swarm, I bought a new hive and put it between the former 2 hives. I put some sugar water in it. A week later I found a swarm of bees in my bait hive. They started to draw comb. I put a kilo of cake and some sugar. So happy to have another hive of bees. Hugs from Turkey. Hi Hilary, just came across this blog as I was looking for advice, I have just received a swarm of honey bees into my old hive, it had 40, bees in the summer past it has been fully empty for at least 6 months now.

I have got most of the advice from reading above and just want to say thank you for all the advice, your a star. I live in Wexford Ireland and the sun is blazing away now for the past few weeks and looks good for the next few weeks and loads of farms with rapeseed growing so I am hopeful now. My question is what should I do with the start of a hive we just found in our yard. We had a pile of old insulation and black plastic piled up next to our house all winter after repairing some damage in our crawl spaces.

My husband finally got around to cleaning it up this week and found a small group of honey bees building comb on the insulation under the plastic. We were really sad we disturbed them but a week later and one heavy rainstorm and they are still working in it. Should we move them to a box or put a cover over them? We live in Western Washington. A 6 inch diameter hive is very small and unlikely to survive. How sure are you that these are honey bees? Could they be wasps? Hi, Enjoy your site and gave you a FB like. I have a few miter bees eating my home. This is fine. I purchase a home at Tractor Supply. Small and will probably build another one. Best way to populate? Lemon Grass Oil? Most thanks,. What do you mean by cutter bees and miter bees? Are you asking about attracting a swarm of honey bees or did you buy a native bee house and want to populate that?

Hi Hillary.. I am going to start beekeeping next year ... If I put a new hive up with the lemongrass lure, will a swarm including the queen bee go for it? I have time to learn but would like to get my own bees if at all possible. Oh and I will only have one hive for a while until I know I can handle it then maybe increase to 2 hives ... I am not in it for the money just the enjoyment of having and saving bees and having my own honey. Hi Kim, did you read this article? It answers your questions. Do not purchase a queen by herself. Was so excited that I filmed all this on camera. They must have moved out. What are the chances of getting another swarm on the same trap? Do I need to move my trap to different location? I would leave it where it is and next time, let them settle for a week or two before bothering them. Sadly my hive has been robbed, I saw the frenzy a couple days ago. Or take all 8 frames of comb out? If your colony was healthy, then you can save the comb and give it to a new colony in spring or use it to attract a swarm, but the issue is keeping moths out.

Most people freeze comb for hours to kill moths and then wrap it in plastic until spring. I would not save the comb if you think your colony may have been unhealthy. Just melt it down for the beeswax. I am trying to understand, why do we need a bees trap instead of attracting them straight into the new beehive? Hi Hilary! I just discovered your site! I have a question about capturing a swarm, near another langstroth hive. Is it OK to try and lure a swarm to an empty hive with some capped honey in it, if I have an active hive close by? Will the bees from the active hive want to take the honey from the empty hive? I am a novice and have failed so many times with bees : ...I cant afford to keep buying nucs! We are in the country in southern ON, so I will have to wait a few months to try this, but should I set up near an orchard, or just in our yard? What is your experience with success in terms of location? We have lots of soy and corn fields here, and a bunch of wildflowers where we have our current hive.

Any advice would be SO appreciated!! You do not want to put honey in a swarm lure even if it is not near another hive. Every bee in the area will rob it, making the lure box feel unsafe to any scout bees who might have otherwise considered it. Full sun is usually what I go with. Thanks for all of the advice. The old comb you gave me worked like catnip for bees. After 2 weeks of progressively more scout bees the main event happened. Very exciting as I watched the last half of the move-in. At some point I will need to move the hive to a not quite yet finished stand about 20 yards away with challenging topography in between.

Should I give it longer than a week to settle in and get more honey and brood going before moving? Which do you suggest? I followed directions on an internet site and built a 40 litre swarm trap, and then put a cotton ball with a few drops of lemongrass oil in a plastic ziplock, poked a hole in the ziplock, and used six deep frames in the trap, three of which have drawn comb from old hives, and three of which have simple plastic frames brushed with wax. In the last eight weeks I have caught four swarms. I then transfer the deeps into regular ten deep boxes. My question is whether I should feed the swarms especially now since the main nectar flow is over here in South Louisiana. Watch them and see how they progress. Hi I am from South Africa, I would really love to start with beekeeping, turns out not much info readily available for us here on anything from catching to keeping to parasite, I am short so would like a long low horizontal box not one stacked to the heavens but that too does not seem available also what do I keep on hand at home in case someone gets stung apparently our bees are quite a nasty bunch.

I like to keep an epi pen for emergencies. If someone is stung usually ice is best. Hello there A dedicated follower and love your advice and expertise?????. I placed a lure box next to a tree with a beehive we are about in swarm season so the next day a whole bunch of bees where all around it and in it. But the next day not much at all. Please advice?????????

Where they all scouts and I should be patient and check in a week or so again. Bees normally like to move further away from their existing hive. Thank you for all the good information. I have bought bee hives and equipment and I have been waiting for a month with no luck. My neighbour who lives a couple of kms from me has wild bees living inside two tyres. Would it be a good idea to put my hive next to the tyres and hope that they would move in or is it smarter to open the wild nest and try to find the queen and physically move her and some combs into my hive? Bees typically like to swarm away from their original colony so moving them too close is not a good idea. If you want to transfer the bees into your hive, take the whole thing and all the comb and get some experienced in this work to help you do it.

However, you may weaken the colony by doing this and could end up causing their collapse. If I were you I would be patient. Try the tricks in this article and set up additional swarm traps. Am facing some difficulties to attract a swarm in to the lure box here in West Africa the swarm season as I was told is about ending and not much luck , But I noticed some bees around the front light bulb at night and was wondering if I place my box there would it also get their attention some how? Looking forward to your reply. Thank you for your valuable time.

Bees attracted to lights at night might be sick. This tool can be used for bee removal. Getting bees off of the combs and not in the air is very helpful. Be careful. Thanks for all your valuable information. I wanted to set up a bait hive and you have given great advice. Im here in Ireland in isolation in these corona times, and my bees have never been as happy. I have just purchased a hive entry, brood box, queen screen, super, etc. In a felled tree, about a year ago, there was a hive for a couple of years. They swarmed last year, but it made me think I could give it a go! Anyway, I was going to put the hive on a platform, but not sure how high in the air I should place it? Also, do I put both the brood box and the super out as a bait box, or just the brood box? I have foundationless frames in the brood box. One more question, should I try to see if the old hive left some comb in the tree, or just leave a big space with the frames?

Hi Z, I highly recommend you watch my online Intro to Beekeeping class. Also make sure you have comb guides in your foundation less frames. I have an article on that on this blog. You will want to set your hive on a stand that has ant proof legs. Search my articles for the one on how to keep ants out of the hive. I would put only the deep brood box out with an entrance reducer on it. I would not try to out old comb from the tree in there. As a wannabe beekeeper, I need all the help I can get! Currently have a swarm trap, like the one pictured, up in a tree, with my fingers firmly crossed. Ade U. Hie Hilary, am Mduduzi from Zim, great site indeed and I need your advice.

I have some few question I bought 20 wooden beehives and I decided to paint them to prevent rain water soaking them. My question is was it necessary for me to paint them and since the paint has some smell can it affect it the bees from settling if Yes what can I do? If you paint it, it will last longer. However yes, you will want to let it dry before baiting it. I would put the sugar water in the area, but not too close to the hive or it will make it feel unsafe to scout bees. Your email address will not be published.

Save my name, email, and website in this browser for the next time I comment. Notify me of follow-up comments by email. Notify me of new posts by email. Submit Comment. My name is Hilary Kearney. Enter your email address to subscribe to this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email. Email Address. Posted February 28, Timing Is Everything Depending on your location, swarming can happen spring through fall.

Scout Bees Before a swarm actually departs, it will put a lot of energy into finding the perfect new home. The Trap Much ado has been made about what kind of cavity a beekeeper hoping to lure a swarm should construct. The Bait Baiting your hives is critical for luring a swarm and I have heard of everything from lemon scented Pine Sol to melted slum-gum. Success If you successfully lure a swarm, be careful not to disturb them for the first week.

Related Posts. One of the single most helpful habits a new beekeeper can form is record taking. Pin 8K. Share Tags: Backyard Beekeeping , bee swarm, lazy beekeeping , swarm lure. Thomas Bickerdike on February 28, at pm. Thomas Reply. Hilary on February 28, at pm. Hilary on May 8, at am. Benno Singer on May 8, at pm. I was happy Reply. Belinda on August 29, at pm. Hilary on September 1, at pm. Aaron Henry on July 24, at am. Is that the same thing or different Reply. Hilary on June 23, at am. Jeannette parker on June 29, at am. Hilary on July 3, at am. Ronni Chipps on May 10, at am. Hilary on May 10, at pm. Juan on March 26, at pm. I am a beginner Reply. Use a square to ensure the cut lines are straight. Using a circular saw , cut the wood to length. Be sure to wear a dust mask and safety glasses when cutting.

This will become the bait hive entrance. To build the swarm box, run a bead of wood glue along one edge then nail or screw in place. A table vice

helps to hold things in place. Run a bead of glue on the short ends and attach the final side securing with finishing nails, wood screws or staples. You will need to ensure that any wood scraps you are using are square before measuring and cutting. This makes the build a lot easier. Attach the base to the bottom of the box the opposite end with the shelf using a bead of wood glue and then nailing, screwing or stapling the base on. The long ends should be flush with the long ends of the base. The 11 inch long short end should be flush with the short end of the base. Wipe off any excess glue with a rag. To make the lid, we cut sections of 1 x 2 that would form a shoe box style lid with a cut out for a hanger. The hanger is a scrap piece of 1 x 2 with a hole drilled in to enable it to hang from a nail or hook.

You can see the landing board on the right hand side of the photo below. Run a bead of glue on the end and assemble the lid. Use wood screws, nails or staples to attach to the lid and the ends of the wood frame. To make the notch, cut the gap out using a jigsaw then attach the pieces for the side with the hanger with glue and hardware. A lick of non-toxic paint will protect the plywood from the weather.

Ensure that the painted bait hive has been ventilating the paint fumes for at least a week before putting it out to trap honeybee swarms. I need to have my beekeeping license number on my hive if it is on another property. Other states may require a contact telephone number as well as a license number. We have a friend with property so our traps are going there however, we are going to be camouflaging them to reduce the likelihood of people taking a potshot at them. To close the swarm catcher for transport, a piece of wood can be taped to the front covering the entrance. You can get fancy making a sliding trapdoor or a cover which flips to close if you want. In biodynamic beekeeping, you want to avoid using plywood and man made woods which contain lots of glues or chemical treatments.

Do not use paint on your swarm traps, instead use beeswax and linseed oil to protect the natural wood exterior from the elements. Avoid using wood glue, use hide glue instead when bonding the sides before securing with screws or nails. You can increase your chances of catching a swarm in your bait hive by using honeybee lures. Scent is a great way to entice scout bees into checking out your swarm trap and there are a few things you can use to lure them in.

You can rub the frames and inside the box with natural beeswax or melt it and paint it on with a clean paintbrush to provide the scent of beeswax. Lemongrass essential oil is highly attractive to bees and a cotton ball with a few drops on it can be placed on top of the frames or in the bottom of the hive to attract the scout bees into your swarm trap. Another method to scent the bait hive is to use a commercial honeybee swarm lure or a Nasonov pheromone inside the bait hive.

These lures can be used in combination with the beeswax or old honeycomb to increase the chances of your swarm trap being investigated by scout bees. Toward Saving the Honeybee by Gunther Hauk. If you liked this post please take a moment to share it using the share buttons below or pin the image below to Pinterest and save it for later and join us over on YouTube to get to know me and my homestead in the suburbs. As remuneration for running this blog, this post contains affiliate links.

Misfit Gardening is a participant in Affiliate or Associates programs. It does not cost you the Reader anything extra. Search this website Hide Search. The scent of where bees have lived before. Sufficiently large cavity to store enough food to survive through a winter. Easily defendable. In the shade. High up location.

Biodynamic Beekeeping Tips For Swarm Traps and Bait Hives In biodynamic beekeeping, you want to avoid using plywood and man made woods which contain lots of glues or chemical treatments. Use an old brood box which still have wax and propolis on them makes a great lure or rub beeswax inside the box. Old comb inside. A small entrance about the area of the end or side of a matchbox if making a slit or about a 1 inch hole.

Too big an entrance and you will reduce your chances of success. Position the swarm trap in the shade, along a tree line is ideal. Ten feet or more in the air. Placed in a tree is ideal however, think carefully about how you will bring it down safely. Check the trap often. Share this: Tweet. Pin 7K.

## **What Is A Swarm Trap? (How To Get "FREE" Bees!) - Beekeeping For Newbies**

The old hive is left with eggs, workers and queen cells. The new queen cells develop and usually the first to emerge shall kill the others. This virgin queen will leave the hive on her nuptial flight to mate with drones from other hives. This queen will hopefully return to lay eggs and to continue the original hive. The easiest way to catch a swarm for new beekeepers is to passively trap or lure a swarm into a bait hive. A few weeks before a swarm occurs, scout bees are out and about looking for food sources and a new home.

Bees are looking for a hollow home about 40 liters in volume. Hollow tree trunks are the natural choice for bees to make into a home but there are some criteria which make bait hives successful which include:. Building a swarm trap need not be difficult. A deep brood box with frames can be enclosed at the bottom and a lid added to seal the box. A hole about 1 inch diameter added to one side to allow the bees to enter and exit make a common bait hive. As with any project, take care with what you are doing, the tools used, health and safety and appropriate protective equipment to avoid injury to yourself or others and damage to equipment and property.

Please read the Disclaimer for more information. You can watch the video below on how to build the swarm trap or read on to see step by step with pictures and learn more about how to be successful with baiting your hive. We built a swarm trap using some plywood we bought from the Habitat For Humanity Restore nearby. There was enough wood to make all the sides and we had some plywood left over from building the greenhouse for the base and the lid. We wanted to be sure that there is a couple of inches between the bottom of the frame and the floor of the bait hive. We then measured the width and length of the deep frames to calculate how wide and long the swarm trap would be. We kept the board at 11 inches deep to provide room between the frames and the base of the swarm trap. Transfer these markings to the wood. Use a square to ensure the cut lines are straight.

Using a circular saw, cut the wood to length. Be sure to wear a dust mask and safety glasses when cutting. This will become the bait hive entrance. To build the swarm box, run a bead of wood glue along one edge then nail or screw in place. A table vice helps to hold things in place. Run a bead of glue on the short ends and attach the final side securing with finishing nails, wood screws or staples. You will need to ensure that any wood scraps you are using are square before measuring and cutting.

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I like to keep an epi pen for emergencies. If someone is stung usually ice is best. Hello there A dedicated follower and love your advice and expertise?????. I placed a lure box next to a tree with a beehive we are about in swarm season so the next day a whole bunch of bees were all around it and in it. But the next day not much at all. Please advice????????? Where they all scouts and I should be patient and check in a week or so again. Bees normally like to move further away from their existing hive.

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Am facing some difficulties to attract a swarm in to the lure box here in West Africa the swarm season as I was told is about ending and not much luck , But I noticed some bees around the front light bulb at night and was wondering if I place my box there would it also get their attention some how? Looking forward to your reply. Thank you for your valuable time. Bees attracted to lights at night might be sick.

This tool can be used for bee removal. Getting bees off of the combs and not in the air is very helpful. Be careful. Thanks for all your valuable information. I wanted to set up a bait hive and you have given great advice. Im here in Ireland in isolation in these corona times, and my bees have never been as happy. I have just purchased a hive entry, brood box, queen screen, super, etc. In a felled tree, about a year ago, there was a hive for a couple of years.

They swarmed last year, but it made me think I could give it a go! Anyway, I was going to put the hive on a platform, but not sure how high in the air I should place it? Also, do I put both the brood box and the super out as a bait box, or just the brood box? I have foundationless frames in the brood box. One more question, should I try to see if the old hive left some comb in the tree, or just leave a big space with the frames? Hi Z, I highly recommend you watch my online Intro to Beekeeping class. Also make sure you have comb guides in your foundation less frames. I have an

article on that on this blog. You will want to set your hive on a stand that has ant proof legs. Search my articles for the one on how to keep ants out of the hive. I would put only the deep brood box out with an entrance reducer on it.

I would not try to out old comb from the tree in there. As a wannabe beekeeper, I need all the help I can get! Currently have a swarm trap, like the one pictured, up in a tree, with my fingers firmly crossed. Ade U. Hie Hilary, am Mduduzi from Zim, great site indeed and I need your advice. I have some few question I bought 20 wooden beehives and I decided to paint them to prevent rain water soaking them. My question is was it necessary for me to paint them and since the paint has some smell can it affect it the bees from settling if Yes what can I do?

If you paint it, it will last longer. However yes, you will want to let it dry before baiting it. I would put the sugar water in the area, but not too close to the hive or it will make it feel unsafe to scout bees. Your email address will not be published. Save my name, email, and website in this browser for the next time I comment. Notify me of follow-up comments by email. Notify me of new posts by email. Submit Comment. My name is Hilary Kearney. Enter your email address to subscribe to this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email. Email Address. Posted February 28, Timing Is Everything Depending on your location, swarming can happen spring through fall.

Scout Bees Before a swarm actually departs, it will put a lot of energy into finding the perfect new home. The Trap Much ado has been made about what kind of cavity a beekeeper hoping to lure a swarm should construct. The Bait Baiting your hives is critical for luring a swarm and I have heard of everything from lemon scented Pine Sol to melted slum-gum. Success If you successfully lure a swarm, be careful not to disturb them for the first week. Related Posts. One of the single most helpful habits a new beekeeper can form is record taking. Pin 8K.

Share Tags: Backyard Beekeeping , bee swarm , lazy beekeeping , swarm lure. Thomas Bickerdike on February 28, at pm Thomas Reply. Hilary on February 28, at pm. Hilary on May 8, at am. Benno Singer on May 8, at pm. I was happy Reply. Belinda on August 29, at pm. Hilary on September 1, at pm. Aaron Henry on July 24, at am. Is that the same thing or different Reply. Hilary on June 23, at am. Jeannette parker on June 29, at am. Hilary on July 3, at am. Ronni Chipps on May 10, at am. Hilary on May 10, at pm. Juan on March 26, at pm. I am a beginner Reply. Dustin on March 1, at am. Hilary on March 1, at am. I should be so lucky. Hilary on March 16, at am. Gary on April 7, at am.

We have had a lot of luck using Lemon Grass Oil as a lure. Mandy on April 22, at am. Hilary on April 22, at am. Tea on January 25, at am. John L on May 20, at pm. Oh well here goes. Hilary on May 20, at pm. Good luck! The Apiarist on January 7, at pm.

## **Swarm Traps and Bait Hives - The Easy Way to Get Bees for Free – Worker and Hive Bee Supply**

When I move them I like to close them up after dark. Move them either that same evening or the next day. I prefer the small opening in the entrance reducer. Stuff the entrance with the grass so the bees have to remove it in order to exit the hive. This seems to reprogram their GPS directions home. I have never had them return to their original location. I am 63 years old and have failed at beekeeping a number of times over the years, mostly because I am afraid of making mistakes or because I do things on a whim.

I look forward to having fun again. I had 2 conventional hives last year, lost one over the winter dead queen I think and now this one is wanting to swarm. I got a store-bought swarm trap yesterday — like yours in the 4th photo. I will be putting it out this weekend as well as attempting my first split. Of course I have opinions from a bunch of beekeepers about what to do and what not to do. ... Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will; that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him forever in the next.

Do you mean when you catch a swarm in a lure and they build comb? If you are away, or forget a bait hive, they build the comb on the removable frames anyway. The box needs to be sited so that the drawn comb is perpendicular obviously. I usually check for a laying queen early morning or late afternoon a day or two after they arrive. Best Wishes for David. Caught a swarm using lemon grass oil in a medium 10 frame Langstroth super, with 2 frames full of old comb and the rest foundation-less frames. Reduced entrance to 2 inches.

Yay for swarm season! I had a swarm move into one of my empty nucs stored under my tractor shed. Just happened to see them when they first arrived. Got a wild hair and decided a week later to build a couple of bait hives and see what happens. One hive was 5 frame nuc size, other was 8 frame size, both deeps. That was 3 weeks ago. I just moved my 2nd bait hive captured swarm to another location for reorienting. Both were caught in the 8 frame box, none in the 5 frame. What, me complain? Last year I lost a nuc given to me by my beekeep buddy during the summer. I lost an 8 frame hive to freezing during the maple nectar flow in late February. Thanks for your blog, please keep with your advice. Question: do bees march upwards? I spotted activity 2 days ago after I forgot to put another super on my hive.

They were evicting the drones. There is now a swarm. I have placed a hive on top of the old hive, but it is new. The scouts have been in the house, and inspected the open hive when it was low to the ground. The swarm is 2 days now. Top on, or off? Lemongrass, or leave well alone? I would put the empty box somewhere else. Not on top of the existing hive. They might not want to move in so close to where they were before. Maybe closer to where the swarm is on its own stand. Lid on. On April 6, I split my hive. One month later I checked the new hive. I saw the new queen and new larvae. To catch a swarm, I bought a new hive and put it between the former 2 hives. I put some sugar water in it. A week later I found a swarm of bees in my bait hive. They started to draw comb. I put a kilo of cake and some sugar. So happy to have another hive of bees. Hugs from Turkey. Hi Hilary, just came across this blog as I was looking advice, I have just received a swarm of honey bees into my old hive, It had 40, bees in the summer past it has been fully empty for at least 6 months now.

I have got most of the advice from reading above and just want to say thank you for all the advice, your a star. I live in Wexford Ireland and the sun is blazing away now for the past few weeks and looks good for the next few weeks and loads of farms with rapeseed growing so I am hopeful now. My question is what should I do with a the start of a hive we just found in our yard. We had a pile of old insulation and black plastic piled up next to our house all winter after repairing some damage in our crawl spaces. My husband finally got around to cleaning it up this week and found a small group of honey bees building comb on the insulation under the plastic. We were really sad we disturbed them but a week later and one heavy



rainstorm and they are still working in it. Should we move them to a box or put a cover over them? We live in Western Washington. A 6 inch diameter hive is very small and unlikely to survive. How sure are you that these are honey bees?

Could they be wasps? Hi, Enjoy your site and gave you a FB like. I have a few miter bees eating my home. This is fine. I purchase a home at Tractor Supply. Small and will probably build another one. Bets way to populate? Lemon Grass Oil? Most thanks,. What do you mean by cuter bees and miter bees? Are you asking about attracting a swarm of honey bees or did you buy a native bee house and want to populate that? Hi Hillary.. I am going to start beekeeping next year ... If I put a new hive up with the lemongrass lure, will a swarm including the queen bee go for it? I have time to learn but would like to get my own bees if at all possible. Oh and I will only have one hive for a while until I know I can handle it then maybe increase to 2 hives ... I am not in it for the money just the enjoyment of having and saving bees and having my own honey. Hi Kim, did you read this article? It answers your questions.

Do not purchase a queen by herself. Was so excited that I filmed all this on camera. They must have moved out. What are the chances of getting another swam on the same trap? Do I need to move my trap to different location? I would leave it where it is and next time, let them settle for a week or two before bothering them. Sadly my hive has been robbed, I saw the frenzy a couple days ago. Or take all 8 frames of comb out? If your colony was healthy, then you can save the comb and give it to a new colony in spring or us it to attract a swarm, but the issue is keeping moths out.

Most people freeze comb for hours to kill moths and then wrap it in plastic until spring. I would not save the comb if you think your colony may have been unhealthy. Just melt it down for the beeswax. I am trying to understand, why do we need a bees trap instead of attracting them straight into the new beehive? Hi Hillary! I just discovered your site! I have a question about capturing a swarm, near another langstroth hive. Is it OK to try and lure a swarm to an empty hive with some capped honey in it, if I have an active hive close by? Will the bees from the active hive want to take the honey from the empty hive? I am a novice and have failed so many times with bees : ...I cant afford to keep buying nucs! We are in the country in southern ON, so I will have to wait a few months to try this, but should I set up near an orchard, or just in our yard?

What is your experience with success in terms of location? We have lots of soy and corn fields here, and a bunch of wildflowers where we have our current hive. Any advice would be SO appreciated!! You do not want to put honey in a swarm lure even if it is not near another hive. Every bee in the area will rob it, making the lure box feel unsafe to any scout bees who might have otherwise considered it. Full sun is usually what I go with. Thanks for all of the advice. The old comb you gave me worked like catnip for bees. After 2 weeks of progressively more scout bees the main event happened. Very exciting as I watched the last half of the move-in. At some point I will need to move the hive to a not quite yet finished stand about 20 yards away with challenging topography in between.

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Otherwise I use a foot extension ladder. There are several ways to attach the trap to the tree. The quickest option is to tie a piece of wire around the box right under the rim of the telescoping cover four screws hold the cover in place. Drive a screw into the tree and hang the box on it, like a painting. Then secure it to the trunk with a ratchet strap. Another possibility is to pick a tree with a large limb at the needed height. Put the swarm trap on the limb and strap it to the trunk with two ratchet straps. I position the ratchet straps loosely in place before raising the trap into the tree.

Finally, you can raise the trap on a rope. Swing it over a branch, tie around the trap, and pull. Tie your end of the rope, climb up and strap the trap to the trunk with two ratchet straps. You can then release the rope — the straps will hold the box. Tilt the trap forward just a bit so rainwater does not run in through the entrance. If you use foundationless frames or just top bars , set the trap as level as possible, so the bees build straight comb. This fence row oak is an ideal swarm trap site that stands out. Prominent, highly visible, easily accessible, fully shading the box, adjacent to natural vegetation, and close to a creek. Of course a good swarm trap is only part of the story. As much depends on the presence of honey bee populations, proper baiting, and trap placement. Here is a list of key success factors that can be gleaned from these and other publications, from talking to experienced swarm catchers with consistently high success rates, plus from my own experience.

After hanging the traps early in the season, you go about puffing dandelions and reciting your favorite swarm-catching charms, all the while experiencing the high of playing at a high-stake lottery. Check traps occasionally. If you see lots of bees at the trap entrance congratulations! Before pulling it down, place your ear against the trap and gently knock on the wall. Loud vigorous hum indicates a resident swarm. If the box is silent or you can hear a few bees but it sounds hollow, what you have seen during the day were the scouts that discovered the box, and the swarm is likely to arrive within the next day or two.

Please come back later. So if you see bees visiting the box, it does not yet mean the swarm moved in. It can be scout bees usually dozens, but sometimes hundreds of them that discovered the box. After the scouts appear at the box, it usually takes days for the swarm to arrive although occasionally the swarm never shows up at all.

Checking the box after dark is the surest way to tell if the swarm is inside. Here are some additional cues:. If the swarm is inside, the trap is ready to be moved. If there is a bunch of bees chilling out on the front wall by the entrance, I take a gulp of water and spray them from my mouth. It looks like it is going to rain, so they move inside no questions asked. I cover the entrance with 8 hardware cloth mesh wire and staple it in place. If the swarm trap tree is from 30 feet to 3 miles to where the permanent hive will be located, I first take the trap 6 miles away and leave it there for a week with open entrance! Without this procedure many bees leaving the hive will be flying to the original swarm trap location and congregating there; moving them away for a week resets their orientation system. If the hive is right under the swarm trap tree, no such precaution is necessary.

When working with occupied swarm traps in twilight, I use a headlamp with red filter. Very handy. If the weather turns rainy after a swarm arrives, I give them several pounds of honey lest they starve to death. The transfer of bees from the swarm trap into the hive is very simple. Pull the frames from the trap and insert them into the hive in the same order. If the swarm you are transferring has not been in the swarm trap long enough to have brood, there is a small chance that it may abscond fly off after the transfer. This never happened in my practice; but if you want to be absolutely sure, giving the colony a frame of open brood from another colony helps anchor them to the permanent hive and prevents absconding. Most beekeepers remove swarm traps from trees at the end of the main swarm season.

In southern Missouri it is around the 4th of July. But I leave mine up until late September. While I never caught any swarms in July or August, there

is a small spike of swarming activity in September. These late swarms are usually relatively small — 2 to 3 lb. They can be united with an existing hive. But I prefer to keep them in the swarm trap and let them build comb and forage until the first hard frost.

After that I carry them inside and connect the trap entrance to the outdoors. Given 5 or 6 lb of honey they survive until the spring and develop into robust colonies the following season. This guide is based on Dr.

### **Swarm Traps and Bait Hives: The Easy Way to Get Bees for Free. by McCartney M. Taylor**

Catching a swarm in a nuc box allows the beekeepers more time before they must be installed in a permanent hive. A nuc is essentially a mini-hive with frames or top bars that can be transferred into a full sized hive. Swarms are able to start building and utilizing comb on frames or top bars in nuc boxes. Common nucs are compatible with deep Langstroth boxes. We make nucs for deep and medium Langstroth boxes and top bar hives. When scout bees find a suitable hive location they return to the cluster, and direct the swarm to the new hive location with a waggle dance.

Once the swarm reaches their destination, the first worker bees on the premises gather at the entrance and fan their nasonov glands, releasing scout pheromone to direct the rest of the bees into the new hive. This pheromone resembles the scent of lemongrass oil and beekeepers can use small amounts of the oil in their hives or in swarm traps to lure in a swarm. [Click here to watch our Encyclo'bee'dia video about the nasonov gland.](#) Check out the books below for more information about how swarms find new hive locations, and about setting swarm traps. If you can order it, it's in stock. Langstroth Hives. Warre Hives. Top Bar Hives. Protective Gear. Bee Feeders. Honey Harvest. How to Catch a Swarm and Install it in a Beehive. How to Catch a Swarm. Are swarms dangerous? How do I find a swarm? Every swarm-catching toolkit should include: 1. Breathable box made of wood or cardboard cardboard file boxes work great!

Light colored bed sheet or tarp 3. Bee brush 4. Pruning shears 5. Lemongrass oil 6. Sold out. When you arrive at the swarm site: 1. Put on protective gear. Actually not even a tree, but an old hollow snag. When I first saw it I had trouble believing that bees could live in there. That was because of the entrance — a large gap some four inches wide by twelve inches tall. It had been the coldest winter in decades, with temperatures staying around zero for several weeks. But survive they did: the opening was teeming with bees; there were so many that they were spilling out of the hollow. I took a spoon and to their great displeasure spread them apart enough to reveal the completely black comb inside, confirming that the colony had lived in this cavity for many years. How do you get these bees from the bee tree into your hives? No chain saw necessary! Each spring the colony becomes congested because of the new generations of young bees being born. So they raise a new queen, and when she matures, the old mother queen with half of all the bees departs from the nest, leaving the remaining half as well as the home with comb and honey and goods and chattel as a dowry for the young queen.

That is how bees procreate; instead of one colony, there become two. The mass of bees often tens of thousands of them that emerge from their old home is called a swarm. So if you place on a tree a box that will look to the bees as a suitable new dwelling, the scouts will signal their sisters all worker bees are female to come and occupy the box. Not unlike a birdhouse: you set it out, and the birds move in. As simple as that. Besides, you do not even need to know where the bee trees or the swarming hives are located: a swarm can travel ten miles or more in search of a nice new home. The box to attract the bees — called bait hive or swarm trap — is basically any watertight wooden or plywood box with a volume of 40 to 70 liters 10 to 18 gallons and a two-square-inch entrance towards the bottom of one wall.

There are many swarm trap models, and even an empty carton can catch you a swarm. But if you rely on swarms for starting and increasing your apiary and use them as a natural alternative to splits and requeening, the conventional swarm traps have their shortcomings. The commercially available wood pulp swarm traps, which look like flowerpots, require frequent checking or the bees will build comb right in the trap.

They are too small, not durable, and quite expensive for such a short-lived contraption. Nuc boxes are too small to be effective, with too small of an entrance, and usually require a special rack to install. Deep Langstroth boxes are the right size, but also require a rack because of their shape. Deeps are also too wide to comfortably carry up and down the ladder with one hand. All things considered, if you only need a few traps, deep bodies or two five-frame nucs connected together are the way to go. Old boxes from healthy colonies work best: both their smell and propolis deposits are attractive to swarms.

Make sure to give it a telescoping top to keep elements out. You would not move into a damp apartment with a leaky roof, would you? But catching swarms can be addictive. I am a living witness to that, with some 40 swarm traps ready to be set out in the spring. And in case you are starting to wonder, I do have a job, a family with four kids, and a farm to take care of. This past season my neighbor built 12 boxes like that and caught 11 swarms. My father, who helped me build a batch of my first-generation traps, told me I should patent the design, or at least sell the plans. Whenever possible I just drive my minivan up to the tree, climb on the roof, and hang the trap from there I have a wide board strapped to the roof rack to serve as standing platform.

Otherwise I use a foot extension ladder. There are several ways to attach the trap to the tree. The quickest option is to tie a piece of wire around the box right under the rim of the telescoping cover four screws hold the cover in place. Drive a screw into the tree and hang the box on it, like a painting. George Edward Horsley rated it it was amazing Jul 04, Christine Elizabeth rated it it was amazing Jan 03, Billy rated it it was amazing Jun 30, Nathan rated it it was amazing Jan 11, Josiah Garber rated it it was amazing Dec 29, Michael rated it really liked it Feb 21, Doug rated it it was amazing Feb 22, Emanuel Lopes marked it as to-read May 02, Elie marked it as to-read May 14, Louis Howe marked it as to-read Jul 17, Megan W marked it as to-read Dec 31, Erica Strand added it Jan 21, Di marked it as to-read Jul 02, Frank Corbett marked it as to-read Jan 08, Natalie Helms marked it as to-read Jan 11, Steven Bray marked it as to-read Mar 26, Michael marked it as to-read Mar 30, Lee marked it as to-read Jun 26, Chhun Hour added it Feb 19, Eliza added it Mar 12, Cordon Bleu added it May 07, Rajja Koli added it May 29, Llor Jol marked it as to-read Jun 01, There are no discussion topics on this book yet.

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