

New Westminster Beekeeper's Association
19 Things to Know about Beekeeping
Module 3 – Package Bees

This module was prepared for members of the New Westminster Beekeeper's Association and are intended to be augmented by a hands-on experience in the bee yard.

Buying and installing package bees are one of several ways to start a beehive.

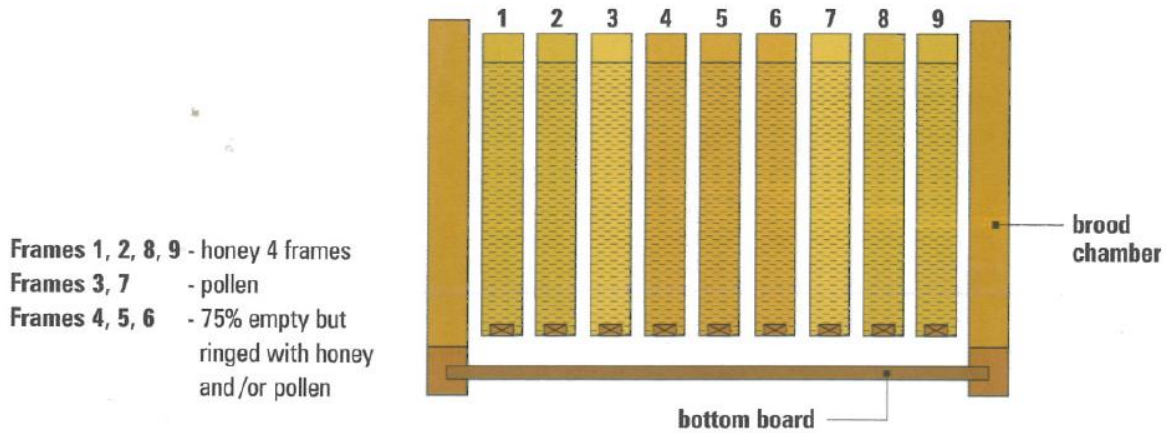
Kintail Honey, NZ – package of 1kg of bees (10,000) and a caged mated queen. Plastic feeder cans are filled with a sugar gel that feeds the bees during transport.

637 1-kg Kintail packages are shipped on one aircraft pallet covered with dry ice packets to keep the bees inactive during the flight.



Preparing for a Package of Bees

Prepare the brood chamber with honey, pollen, and empty brood frames. Also have sugar syrup and a 1lb pollen patty on hand

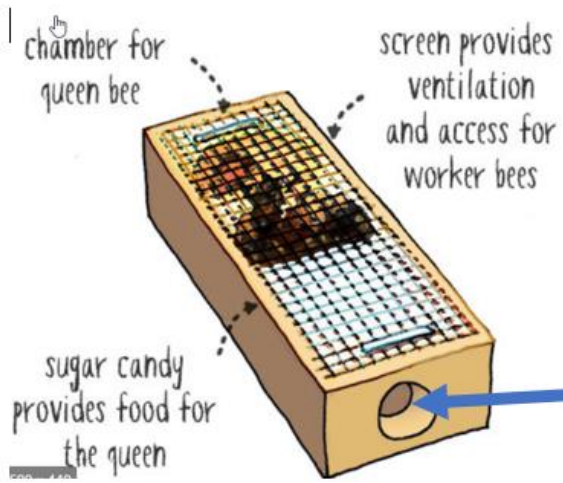
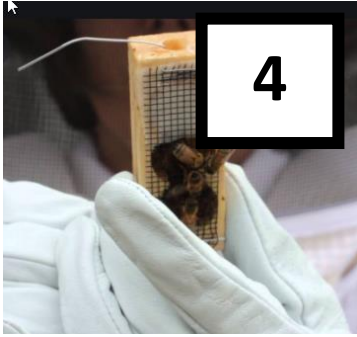


Pouring the Package

1. Remove middle 3-4 frames
2. Tap the package onto the ground to dislodge the bees
3. Remove feeder can
4. Remove queen cage
5. Pour bees into the empty space
6. Gently add back empty frames
7. Remove queen candy from cage
8. Place queen cage between frames
9. Add pollen patty & syrup

Release queen in 5 days (if she has not already been released by the bees)





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Remove Plastic Tab or Cork from Candy End of Cage



Care and Feeding for a Package of Bees

- Day 0 – Pour Bees
 - Feed 4 litres Syrup
 - Feed 500gm Pollen Patty
 - Medicate (Oxytet and Fumagilin Dust) per directions
- Day 5 – Check Queen Release.
- Day 10
 - Queen Check (Do not look for the queen. Look for eggs & larvae)
 - Feed 4 litres Syrup
 - Feed 500gm Pollen Patty
 - Medicate (Oxytet and Fumagilin Dust) per directions
- Day 20
 - Queen Check (Look for eggs, larvae, pupae) (Check brood pattern)
 - Feed 4 litres Syrup
 - Feed 500gm Pollen Patty
- Day 30
 - Queen Check (look for brood in all stages, and brood pattern)
 - Feed Syrup if colony does not have 4 full frames of capped honey



Perfect Brood Frame

End.