

How to Get Some Bees **www.sparkybeegirl.com**

Order “Package Bees” from a reputable bee supplier

Installing Package Bees

Feed your bees when they arrive. Spray, splash, or sprinkle sugar syrup through the screen of the package (tipping to the side may be helpful). Bees can be held this way for a few days, but keep them in a cool place. To install: Best done in the evening, as this will convince them to stay inside through the night. Remove the feeding can long enough to bring out the caged queen. Carefully remove the cork from one end, leaving the sugar plug in place (some queen cages require you to put in your own plug of sugar, marshmallow or tissue paper). Wedge or hang the cage with the queen between two brood frames. Avoid exposing her very long to cold or direct sun. Next wet the bees with water or sugar syrup to prevent excessive flight. Pour bees onto the frames in the hive by removing the can and shaking out most of the bees. You can also simply remove one side of the shipping box and put it face down onto an opening in the box—they will crawl in to their queen. . Once they are all in, close the hive for the evening. Check in one week for satisfactory brood. Regular feeding for a few weeks will ensure comb drawn in your hive

Catch A Swarm

Finding Swarms: The Alameda Beekeepers association has a swarm list. Swarms are sometimes listed on Craigslist and alternately you can also list your request on Craigslist. If it is your first time “catching” a swarm, do not try a complicated removal from a wall. Go for a swarm that is hanging out on a branch somewhere. When the swarm leaves the hive, they cluster in a temporary location while scouts go out looking for a new home. The bees will stay clustered there for a while—though not usually more than 24-36 hours, so you need to move fast. Swarming bees are generally docile, full of honey and don’t have any brood to protect. Their MO is to stay with their queen who, 99% of the time is in the middle of that clump of bees. Bring a ventilated box to the location. It can be a cardboard box with some screen taped into it, but be forewarned, you do not want to leave them in a temporary structure long, because as soon as they find their home they are going to start building comb like there is no tomorrow. Best to catch a swarm AFTER your nuc or box is ready.

If you can easily cut the branch they are on, do so and gently lay the clump in the box and close the box. Otherwise you can also shake the bees into the box—if you can do it in one fell swoop, all the better.

See videos of the process on YouTube at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4xZOekHHrM> & <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GylRrdicXEA>

Pour your bees into your Nuc or box in the evening. To ensure they stay, you can leave the box closed for 24 hours, but if you do so leave them some food and water inside the box and ensure the box does not get too hot in the sun.

Catch a Swarm (part 2)

Position a hive box or Nuc facing south, with morning sun 3-10 feet off the ground in an area where bees are present and may be swarming. Place a commercially available “swarm catch” pheromone. In the box along with several empty combs.

Take A “Split”

Splitting is the process of taking fresh brood from an established hive and letting the bees make a new queen and thereby a new colony. Only do this if the existing hive is healthy and hearty. Take one paddle of honey, one paddle with pollen and 3 to 4 combs of brood. Put into a Nuc or Hive Box in a nice location. Make sure one of the combs has fresh eggs or newly hatched larvae. If the larvae/eggs are young enough, the bees will create a new queen from one of these once they discover they are queenless for 24 hours. If all goes well you should see a queen cell within 3 days and brood within 24-27 days.