

## **A Simple Method of Creating New Queens or Colonies - The Rolt Method**

**Three important criteria must be fulfilled to raise really good queens:-**

1. The queen must be reared from a newly hatched larva.
2. A good force of young nurse bees is essential.
3. An abundant supply of royal jelly must be available at the right time.

**The below method fulfils these criteria and was greatly used by Arthur Rolt, one time, County Bee Inspector for Somerset.**

1. In spring reduce the brood nest to nine combs and insert a dummy board.
2. About the second week of May insert a marked frame of drawn comb in the centre of the brood nest. This will ensure an adequate supply of young bees will be available.
3. Exactly 16 days later add another marked frame of drawn brood comb. Place it next to the first one. This will give a frame of eggs for queens and brood to be available. The brood chamber has now a full complement of combs. (National)
4. 48 hours later prepare a nucleus as follows:-
  - The two marked frames of brood and eggs are removed and placed with their bees into the nucleus box taking care not to take the queen as well!
  - A third comb, this one containing stores, is placed into the nucleus box.
  - Shake in young bees from two more brood frames. Making sure the queen is not on these frames.
  - Insert a dummy board and close up the combs in the parent hive.
  - The bees will select several eggs to become queens.
  - Feed slowly after a couple of days.
  - Queens will emerge by 13 days from making up the nucleus.

### **To make use of more than one queen cell:-**

- Make up other nuclei (two frames of brood with bees plus one of stores) three days before the queens are due to emerge.
- 48hours later each nuclei should be supplied with a ripe queen cell.
- New queens will emerge within another 48 hours.

These queens will normally mate very quickly and be ready for use in the apiary. On the other hand the nuclei could be allowed to expand and develop into full colonies.

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