

15 CHAPTER NAME

Book 3 chap 15 how to catch bees

The simplest way is to set up your Gardeners beehive in the best possible location then bait it. Then with a little patience, perseverance and time bees will just move in.

If you are having no luck or want to speed up the process a little here are a few things you can do. The simplest is to join a local natural beekeeping club or find a beekeeper that is sympathetic towards bee hosting. In the spring you can be on their swarm list, and when a call comes in you can go out with a bee catcher and catch some bees, they can be put in a box or skep, or straight into a Gardener's Beehive.

These bees can simply be tipped into the Gardener's Beehive, or they can be walked in. This then can be left on site or taken to where you would like it to be located.

Beekeeping clubs are interesting, and you will find a few really odd characters in these. My take on a bee clubs? Most are great! A good one is where they will give the newbies first outings in the spring to collect bees.

Bad club will let the old beekeepers who have killed their bees over winter first collect so they can have another great summer, kill their bees over winter with bad luck, these honey farmers, not beekeepers, only belong to clubs to get free bees in spring. And quite often are quite offensive and protective about keeping the status quo, so they always get the first swarms. Stay away from these clubs.

The next is if a beekeeper catches a swarm to sell, they often put them in a Nuc box, a nuc box can be affixed to the side of a Gardeners Beehive with one side taken off the nuc box and a hole the size of the nuc box made in the hive. You can then put the frames of bees into the nuc box on the hive, if it is about halfway up the Gardeners Beehive bees will migrate into the larger space over time, around a few months. In spring this can be a few weeks. Then one by one the outside frames can be replaced with blanks until there are no frames and the nuc box can be removed and the section of the side of the Gardeners Beehive can be reinstalled. What you do not want to be doing is removing brood or leaving the nuc box on over into winter.

Next you can use nuc boxes as swarm lure traps and once they move in you can do as explained in the last paragraph.

Next you can put up a number of swarm sticks.

All this is, is a three metre long pole or stick with a board screwed into the one end to the underside of this you can staple a piece of cloth and bait this with some lure. Then you need to keep an eye on it. When bees arrive, sometimes they will hang about for a few days but sometimes only a few hours. This can then be gently brought down then taped on an open hive, like a big hammer, the bees will drop in. Or you can gently scoop them in. The roof can be put on and the rest of the bees brushed off in front of the hive but be careful as the queen might be with this lot. They will then walk up the leg and into the hive. The swarm stick with the lure must be removed from the area so that they will move into the Gardeners Beehive and not try to regroup on the stick.

So that is four simple ways to get bees into your hive.

Some other things people have done.

A few people have simply taken the frames from a nuc box with bees and put bees and frames sideways into the bottom of the hive and just left the to get on with it. I am not sure how much honey and nectar runs out of the comb, but that has worked very well for quite a few people, though I have never done this myself. But I do not see why this would not work just fine.

Good luck, and if you are on the newsletter do let me know how you get on and how you have got bees.

