

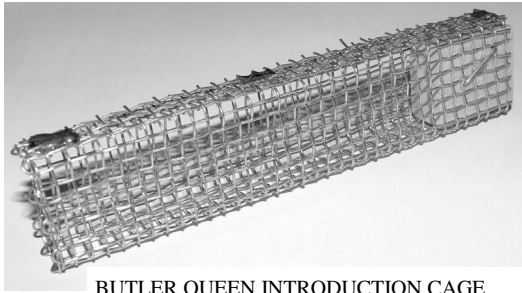
Timing problems continued.

If you have just removed queen cells from a problem hive and you have a ripe queen cell in a well behaved colony preparing to swarm you could introduce this instead of a laying queen. Suc

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The Butler queen introduction cage



BUTLER QUEEN INTRODUCTION CAGE

This is one such cage specifically designed for the purpose. It is made of 3 mm. wire mesh, formed into a rectangular sectioned tube approximately 90 mm. long and 20 mm by 13 mm. in cross section. One end is permanently plugged with a small wood block. Such cages can be home made or purchased from the appliance

dealers. Similar plastic cages can also be obtained. The size of the mesh is important as the holes should be big enough for the bees to make contact with their antennae but small enough to prevent the workers getting to the queen and damaging her.

On arrival

It is best to introduce a queen to the new colony soon after she arrives but if this is not possible the travelling cage should be unpacked to allow ventilation through the mesh and two or three small drops of water placed on the mesh for the bees to drink. The cage can then be left in a cool ventilated cupboard for a day or two.

The travelling cage is unsuitable for introduction as it will be soiled with bee excreta and could transfer disease. Furthermore the attendants would antagonise the new colony. If the queen has been imported from abroad, the workers, cage and all packaging should be sent to the NBU for examination. (t tB