



APIDEA Mating Hives

Proven quality for successful queen-rearing

The APIDEA mating hive is one of the most proven queen-rearing systems worldwide. Its well-designed construction provides optimal conditions while ensuring easy handling and delivers long-lasting quality for everyday use.

Material

The APIDEA mating hive is made entirely of high-quality, coloured hard styrofoam. The material is free of thermal bridges and has proven to be particularly bee-friendly.

Advantages at a glance

- Insulation value approximately 3.5 times higher than that of wooden mating hives
- Lightweight and easy to stack
- Cubic shape for optimal brood-rearing conditions
- Robust and durable construction
- Hygienic and easy to clean

Components

- Hive body for 3 or 5 frames
- Removable sliding bottom
- Removable inhive feeder for approx. 500 g of fondant
- Cover with recess for queen roller cage
- Aeration screen
- 3 plastic frames with guides for wax starter strips
- Interior transparent cover with opening for queen cell protector cages and a closing flap
- Excluder for the entrance and inhive feeder

All components are also available separately.

Use & Handling

Preparation

The supplied frames are assembled and fitted with wax starter strips. They are then placed into the mating hive so that a circle is formed for the coll cone opening. Next, the aeration screens and excluder are inserted into the designated positions. The inhive feeder is filled with fondant up to just below the rim. Finally, the interior transparent cover is placed on top and the mating hive is closed with the cover.

Populating with Bees

To populate the mating hive, turn it upside down and open the sliding bottom until the brood chamber is fully exposed. Approximately 100g of young bees are then introduced using a soup ladle or a large cup. To keep the bees calmer and reduce flying, it is recommended to lightly mist them with water beforehand. After filling, close the sliding bottom and place the mating hive in a cool location.

Introducing the Queen

A ripe queen cell ready to emerge or a newly emerged virgin queen can then be introduced through the insertion opening in the interior transparent cover. The mating hive should continue to be kept in a cool location. To ensure adequate humidity, the aeration screen above the closed entrance should be lightly sprayed with water several times a day.

Confinement Period and Placement

After three days of confinement in a cool, dark location, the mating hive can be placed in the evening either at a mating station or in the home apiary. To do so, raise the front slider fully to allow the bees to fly out.

Inspection

After approximately ten to fourteen days, the mating hive will normally contain a successfully mated young queen. The queen should then be assessed for quality, and the brood nest inspected for regularity and uniformity.

Expansion

If the colony is to remain in the mating hive for a longer period, the brood chamber can be expanded as needed. First, remove the inhive feeder and replace it with two frames fitted with wax starter strips. Then either place the APIDEA super feeder directly on the mating hive and fill it with fondant, or alternatively add the super containing five additional frames first. In this configuration as well, the super feeder is then filled with fondant and placed on top.

Cleaning

Clean the mating hive using warm water and cleaning agents approved for beekeeping use. Not all components are resistant to boiling water or acids. The manufacturer accepts no liability for damage resulting from improper cleaning.

Further information:



The blue APIDEA mating hives are particularly durable thanks to their heat-resistant frames, aeration screens with excluders, and interior transparent cover.

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