



The Managed Mentoring Program on getting started in beekeeping.

# Managed Mentoring



# Managed Mentoring

## Post Installation – First Check

Lesson | Package (and Nuc) First Week Checks



# What is Covered in this Module

---

After the First Week

---

Hive Layout Scheme

---

Check for Queen Release

---

No Queen Release Found

---

Package Progression

---

Nuc Progression

---

---

---

---



# Post Package/Nuc Install

What to do and expect after installing the bees



## After one week

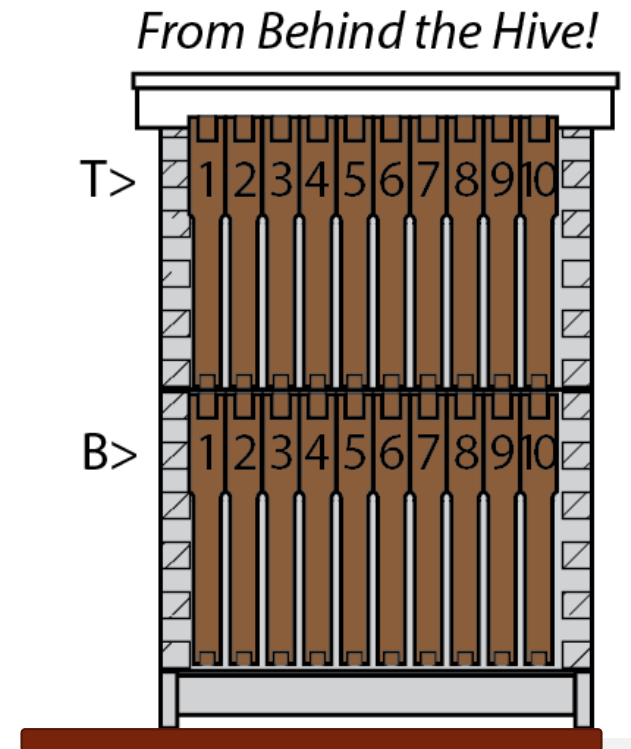
- ❑ Once the package is in place you should see:
  - *The bees will be flying at the entrance*
  - *Bees will be orienting*
  
- ❑ The queen should be out
  - *After one week, the next step is to inspect the colony for queen exit*
  - *Before describing that a quick primer / tool on the hive interior*



# Hive Numbers

*A system for reference*

- **This is great for taking notes**
  - Standing behind the hive, the frame to left in the bottom box is B1. B=Bottom, T=Top
    - *\*With the inner feeder, the first frame is really B2...*

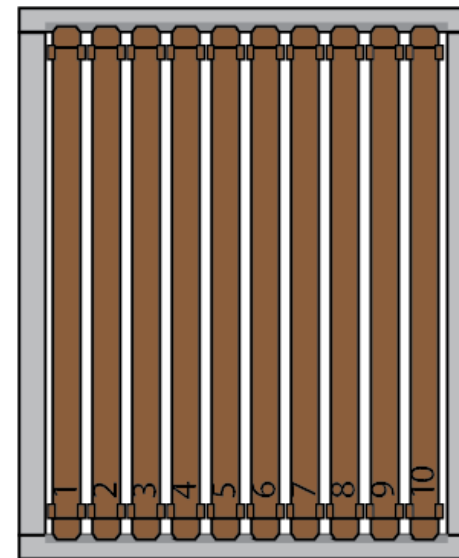


# Conceptual Frame Numbers

*A system for  
reference*

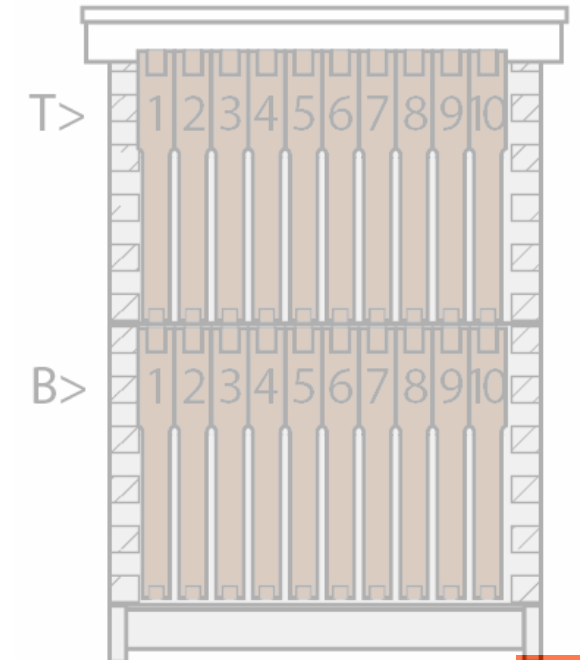
## ■ This is great for taking notes

- Standing behind the hive, the frame to left in the bottom box is B1. B=Bottom, T=Top
  - *\*With the inner feeder, the first frame is really B2...*
- The frame in the box furthest to the right is B10
- When you have a second box
  - T1 to T10

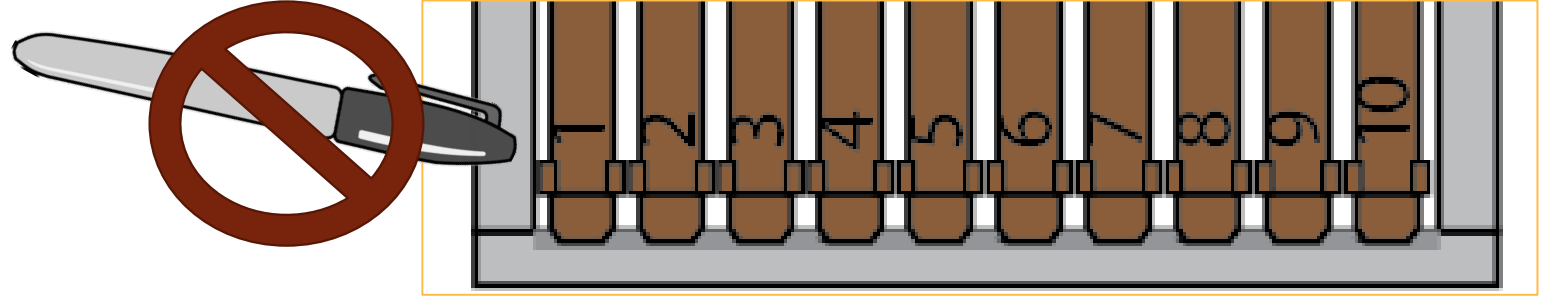


Back of the hive

*From Behind the Hive!*







# No Real Numbers

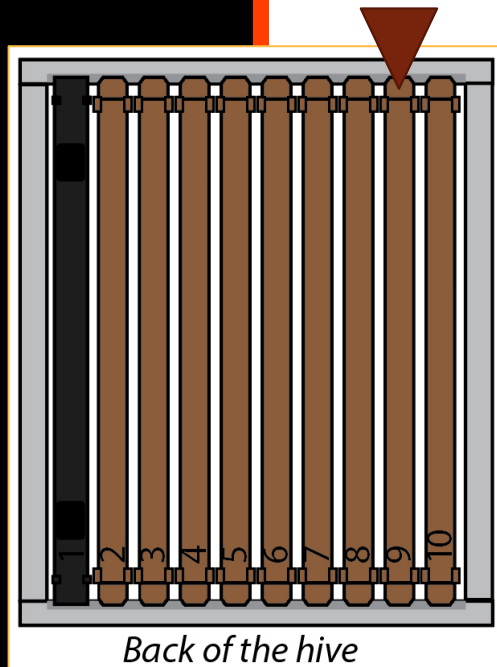
## ■ Not Literal...

- To avoid confusion, we will say this out loud
  - *Do not write numbers on your frames*
  - *It is common, over time, to change location of frames*
  - *If you write numbers on your frames, and then change frame locations – swap in frames from other hives, etc.*
    - It will end up being a mess and confuse things.
- Theoretical numbers, not real numbers.





# The First Week for the Hive

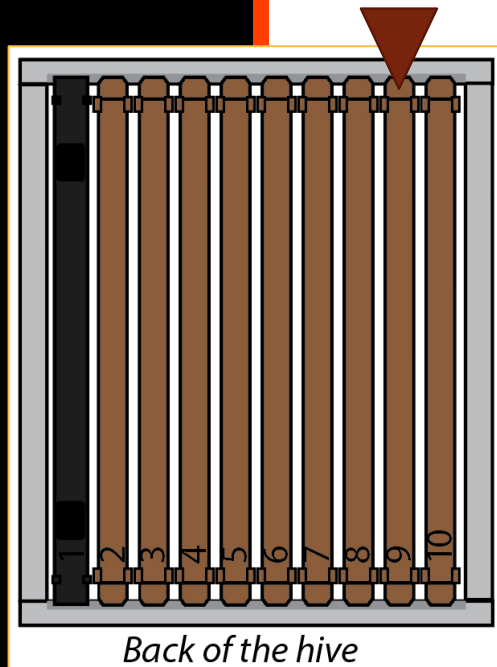


## ■ Check for queen exit

- Within one week of installing a package check for the queen release
  - *Smoke the front entrance of the hive*
  - *Take off the outer cover and give a puff of smoke in the hole.*
  - *Take off the inner cover*
  - *Separate frames and pull frame #9 (or #2 if your feeder is on the other side)*
  - *Pull the frames into the gap to separate the frame where the queen is*
    - Pull #8 into the gap where #9 was, then pull #7 into the gap; keep going until you get to the frame with the queen cage

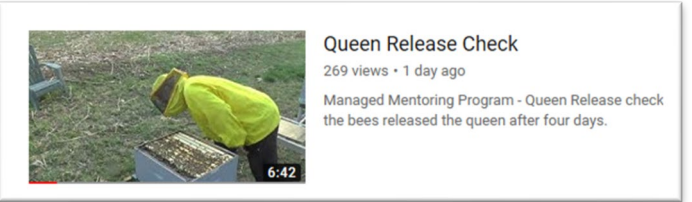


# The First Week for the Hive



## ■ Check for queen exit

- Within one week of installing a package you should check for your Queen Release (continued)
  - *Pull the frame with the queen cage and look to see if the queen is out*
    - Check the candy end and see if it is open, look for queen in the cage
  - *If she is out, remove the cage*
    - May have to use a hive tool to dislodge it if the bees have waxed it to the foundation
  - *Check your feeder and top it off*
  - *Close the hive and leave them alone for another week*



# What if the Queen is Not Out Yet!

- **First things first**
  - This is not an emergency.
    - *Recall that the cage faces front and back so the workers can take care of the queen, even if she is still in the cage.*
  - What to do
    - *If it has been a week, help it along by doing the following:*
      - Open the hive following the process outlined earlier
      - Take a nail and poke the candy plug some to loosen it up and maybe even make a small hole
      - Of course, do not poke through and injure the queen
      - Place it back in the hive, leave it a few days, and come back. She will be out.



# What if the Queen is Not Out Yet!

- **What if I pull the cork on the far end?**
  - We suggest you do not do that.
    - *You might be tempted to remove the cork on the open end, **we do not recommend that.***
      - You are holding her outside of the hive and if she comes out and flies away it will be an emergency.
      - Place the cage back into the frame and be patient- they will release her.



# What if the Queen is Not Out Yet!

- **I need to pull the cork...**
  - If you do subsequent checks and she is not out
    - *Then you may have no choice....*
    - *Use a pair of needle nose pliers, making sure that you cover off the hole immediately when you pull the cork*
      - It is possible that she will dart for the hole and surprise you.
    - *Get the cage to the top bars quickly*
      - Place the cage on the top bars, still covering the hole;
      - Tilt the cage so the open hole is facing a gap between the top bars
      - Be patient and wait until she walks out and (hopefully) walks down into the hive.
        - This may take some time as she could walk around in the cage for quite some time before she finds her way out – be patient



# Your Hive Today

## Package

### ■ Package Progression

- Queen Release
  - *The queen should be out of her cage by now.*
- Building Comb
  - *You may even see the bees building comb by this weekend.*
  - *As soon as they have any semblance of comb, the queen should be laying.*
- Foraging
  - *Should be a steady stream of bees coming and going at the entrance*
  - *Should see bees with pollen going in*
- Notebook
  - *Should have two entries, install and queen release check by today*



# Your Hive Today

## Nucleus

- **Nuc Progression**
  - Your Nucleus colony will move quickly
  - It comes supplied with a full complement of bees
    - *The young wax producers will build out comb in harmony with the foragers who bring the resources to support the wax building operation*
    - Different colonies proceed at different paces. Some are very fast and others take time to muster.
    - At each check you can monitor their progress until they build out the first level.
  - Keep feeding this colony as feeding stimulates growth





# Hive Check

## ■ **Just Checking the setup**

Better Safe than sorry on the basics

- Screened bottom boards closed (Early Spring)
- Entrance reducer on the hive – small or medium hole
- Feeder with food in the first position
- 9 Frames with foundation
- Weight on Top, Hives are strapped
- Hive is level side to side, slight forward tilt
- Hive is up off the ground
- Full Sun if possible, and facing the Morning Sun



# What's Next

## □ Build to first box Populated

- *The bees will begin foraging in earnest*
- *Bees will draw comb on the foundation frames (or plastic if you are using that)*
- *Once there are wax cells, the queen will lay eggs*
- *The colony will be populating the hive with bees and resources*
  - This is underway when you see pollen collected at the entrance
- *The hive will build out the frames from 2 to 9*



# Closing Comments

- **Customary Close**
  - Where we stand, where we are going...
    - *This module closes out your first week inspection*
    - *Our next topic moves to the preparatory steps for getting started:*
      - Inspections
      - Using a Hive Tool
      - Feeding New Colonies
      - Record Keeping
      - Equipment Prep for Future



- **What Questions did we not anticipate?**
  - If you have feedback, you can leave a constructive comment; but be nice.
  - You could also send an email to [comments@managedmentoring.com](mailto:comments@managedmentoring.com)
    - *Please refer to this video in the subject so we know what the reference is.*

