



## Fact Sheet 012

# Introducing a caged queen to a nucleus hive (nuc)

## Making up the nuc

- From a strong colony select 2 / 3 frames of sealed brood.
- Make sure the queen of the colony is not on any of them, and shake all the bees off them.
- Put these frames into a new brood box and place box on top of the supers.
- After 30 - 60 minutes the new brood box will be populated with mainly nurse bees
- Remove the new brood box and put the frames plus nurse bees into a nuc box.
- Add 1 frame of stores (honey & pollen) and 1 or 2 frames of either drawn comb or new foundation.

## Introducing the caged queen to the nuc box

- Use a cocktail stick to suspend the caged queen between two frames.
- A Cyprus queen bee breeder, Roger White, advocates to leave the queen in the cage for 3 days, i.e. don't remove the plastic cap from the cage.
- Check the brood frames for queen cells and remove any charged ones.
- If you did find charged queen cells check again in 2 days and remove any further charged queen cells.
- Check again after a further 2 days.
- When no more queen cells are present, remove the plastic cap from the queen cell, exposing the fondant for the bees to eat and thus release the queen from the cage.