

## QUESTIONS.

### What is the Best Time and Way to Transfer Bees From a Box Hive?

In spring during fruit bloom, choosing a warm day. There is hardly space here to give minute directions.

EUGENE SECOR.

Have had no experience. W. SCOTT.

During fruit bloom, or about twenty-one days after the prime queen has left the old hive. There is then no brood to handle, and it is easily done. If the bees are in a box hive, drum them out into an empty hive, then cut out the combs and fasten with string into movable frames, then hive the bees back onto the transferred combs and the bees will do the rest.

F. A. GEMMELL.

During fruit bloom. First smoke at entrance of box hive, then invert and smoke the bees well down into the combs; then place a box of the same size over the box hive, then drum on the hive with a small hammer or stick for about twenty minutes, or until the bees have left the hive and are clustered at the top of the box. Then shake on a hiving board in front of a new hive containing frames of comb, or full sheets of foundation. When the bees are quietly clustered in the new hive, open it and take out the two outside frames and shake the bees off in front of the old hive. The new hive should occupy the old stand. Twenty-one days from the time that the first bees were driven out, the brood will be all hatched, then drum as before and shake the bees in front of the new hive. The old combs may then be cut out and melted. R. A. MARRISON.

If you have only one colony to transfer the spring is a good time before the combs are heavy with honey, or say during fruit bloom. To transfer proceed as follows: First blow a little smoke in at the entrance, then turn the box hive bottom side up of the bottom board and blow in more smoke. Then invert a box over the mouth of the old hive and drum on the sides of the hive to make the bees leave it and go up into the box. When the most of the bees have clustered in the box, remove it and take off side of box hive so as to fit the frames, wind some twine round the frame to keep the comb in place and hang it in the new

hive that is placed on the old stand, place frames containing brood in the centre of hive; remove any crooked or drone combs that are empty and if not sufficient combs to fill hive, fill up with frames of foundation, then shake bees out of box in front of entrance and let them run in. If you have many to transfer, or at a time when honey is scarce, a tent will be necessary to prevent robbing.

R. H. SMITH.

St. Thomas, Ont.

In my own locality in early spring, or a warm sun-shiny day, when the fruit trees are in full blossom. Transferring can be successfully done at any time by an expert, but the beginner should attempt it only when nectar of some kind is being secreted in the fields and the bees are gathering it freely. Much depends however, on whether you wish to get your bees into frame hives only, or to get some surplus honey also. As a rule, I should say transfer as early in the season as honey is being gathered freely. As to the way to do it, consult most any text book on the matter, and a full explanation will be found.

J. L. POND.

North Attleboro, Mass.

The best time is about the time apple trees are in bloom. At that time the bees get some honey to induce them to repair things nicely and not enough to be seriously in the way of the work of transferring the combs. If you are a new hand at the business as I infer you are, you may succeed best by turning the box hive upside down, put a box on it and then proceed to rap with a stick or light hammer on the hive till the queen and most of the bees are driven up into the box, set the box with the bees on the old stand, now pry off one side of the box hive, cut out the combs, fit them in the frames and secure them with single ties of cotton twine; don't wind the twine around and around the frame, for if the bees should cut the twine in one place, it will let all loose. Hang the frames of transferred combs in the hive set it on the old stand, and shake the bees from the box in front of it and see that they enter it all right. In a week, if the weather is good, you may remove the twine ties or leave the bees to do it.

G. W. DEMARCE.

Christianburg, Ky.

In the spring, when bees are gathering a little honey, is the best time to transfer. For the way to transfer, I would refer you to the A. B. C. in bee culture. J. PIRIE.

Wait till they are strong, nearly ready to swarm. Operate as follows: Reserve