a guide for

SWARM PRIMER CONDITIONS

SEE SOMETHING, DO SOMETHING

Swarming can be a frustrating situation that affects your honey harvest and neighborly goodwill. Swarming is also a natural reproductive event and a colony meets certain conditions before it issues a swarm. Learning those conditions can help beekeepers stay a step ahead and prevent swarms. Once we see those conditions, we can do something about them.

Bees and swarms are also just plain cool.

Happy learning,

Julia

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CONDITION 1: COLONY SIZE

Swarms tend to occur when the population outgrows its space. You probably have a week to right this problem.

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CONDITION 2: CONGESTION

Brood nest congestion is one of the easiest seasonal signals for us to detect.

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CONDITION 3: YOUNG:OLD

Colonies that present a high ratio of young to old workers are another easy visible cue to acknowledge.

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CONDITION 4: QMP

QMP stands for Queen Mandibular Pheromone. Its presence and circulation are things that we cannot detect. However, we can see the earlier three primer conditions and spend up to a couple weeks preparing for swarm management.

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CONDITION 5: QUEEN CELL CONSTRUCTION

if you find a queen cell, your bees most likely already swarmed.

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DID YOU RECOGNIZE A CONDITION IN YOUR HIVE?

Successful prevention is easy once you know the conditions to look for. To learn the strategy associated with each condition, take the

Swarm Class for $15 with

> this link <

(best viewed on a larger screen)

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