

It's Time To... Finish Winter Preparations

Good News

Honey bees can adapt to the devastating effects of the varroa mite, if you let them. Testing colonies for hygienic behavior is not as good as testing for varroa resistance. If a colony survives without mite treatments they are resistant to mites. A colony without mite resistance will die.

Raising your own queens from survivor colonies without mite treatments will enable your colonies to develop mite resistance.

Introducing queens from queen producers that treat for mites will thwart any resistance your colonies develop.

Raising queens is the most important part of the Coweta Beekeeping Method.

Below are two articles about honey bees developing mite resistance.

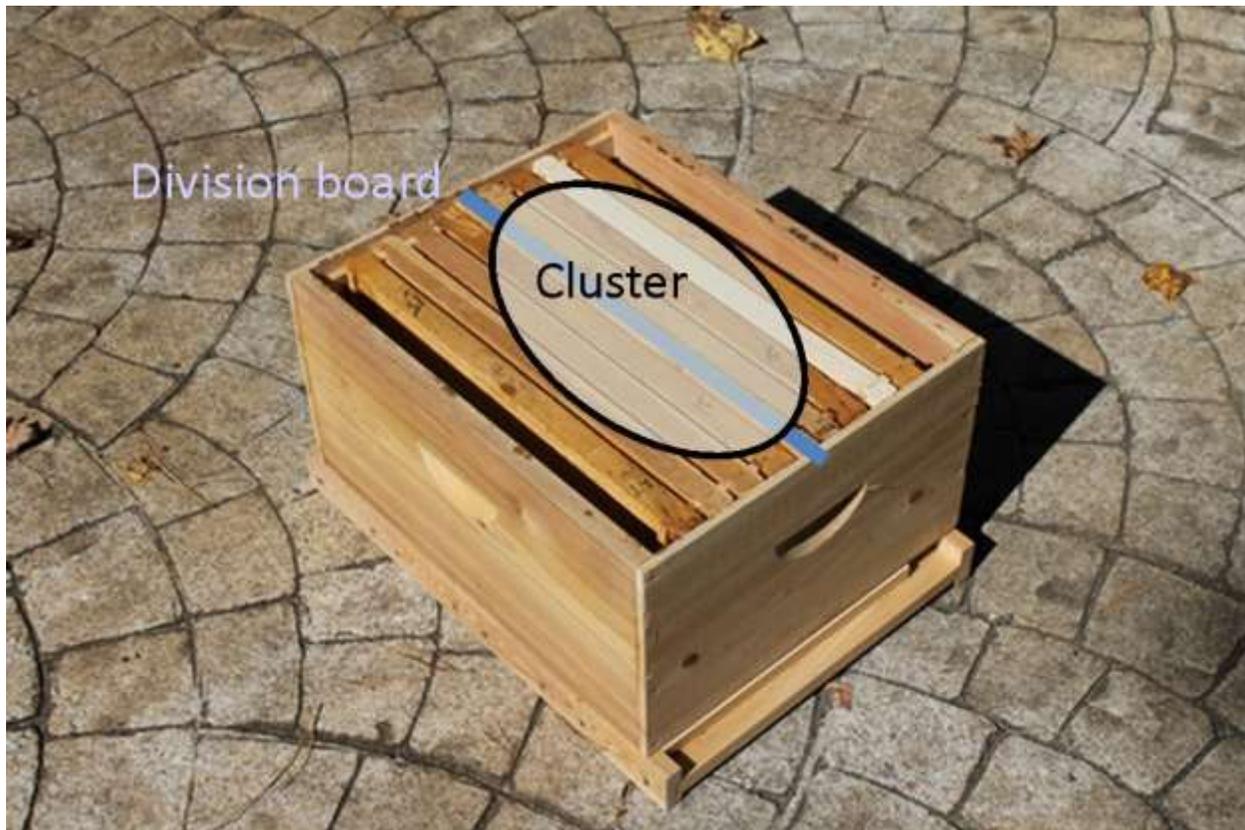
American Bee Journal, October 2015, page 1063. Original article [**Some Honey Bee Colonies Adapt In Wake of Deadly Mites**](#). The feral colonies in the Arnot Forest near Cornell University have rebound after exposure to varroa mites.

Kirk Wester, [**Collapse and Recovery: The Gateway to Treatment Free Beekeeping**](#). Kirk taught Mike Palmer the importance of overwintering nucs allowing Mike to increase honey production from 20 tons to 40 tons per year.

Double Nucs

Entering winter with extra colonies (50% of production hives) ensures the planned number of production hives in the spring. Using nucs reduces the cost of the extra colonies. Using double nucs or duplex nucs increase the winter survival of the nucs.

It's time to set up your duplex nucs. The two colonies share heat thru the division board. Each side will form a half circle cluster adjacent to the division board. Honey frames are placed next to the division board then brood frames.



Purchase duplex nucs from the following suppliers

Some are not complete. You may need frames and foundation or covers.

[Brushy Mountain Bee Farm](#)

[Better Bee](#)

[Rossmann Apiaries](#)

Modifications to existing equipment

A solid bottom board must be modified to keep the two colonies separate. Each colony has an entrance on opposite ends of the duplex nuc.



The 10 frame deep super must have a division board to keep the colonies apart.. I used a 1x10 ripped and cut to fit in the deep and another piece to fit into the rabbet. The two pieces are glued and nailed together.



Two inner covers are required to separate the two colonies. When inspecting one inner cover is removed while the other remains.



A 10 frame telescoping cover keeps the weather out.

