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How to Care For Your Nucleus Hive

- 1 Decide exactly where you are going to put the nuc. If you have toads, put it up about 45 cm (or 18 inches) off the ground. Do not put it next door to, or near, a very strong hive as the bees from the strong hive might rob out the nuc. Bees sometimes have shocking manners.
- 2 After you pick up your nuc, take it straight home. The bees have been locked up since the previous evening. It is not lack of oxygen that will kill them, but the heat that can build up if they get agitated.
- 3 Put your nuc in position and stand at the side to release them. Usually they are in quite a hurry to get out.
- 4 Give them a few days to settle down and in the meantime prepare a super for them. Measure off the space needed for 4 frames and put in a partition so the bees cannot get into the remaining space. Reduce the entrance to about 8 to 10 cms (or 3 to 4 inches). You now have a "flat" just the right size for your nuc with only a small front door for them to guard.
- 5 Lift the nuc to one side and put the prepared box in its place. Transfer the frames into the new box, preferably in the same order as they were in the nuc.
- 6 If there is honey coming in, your nuc should be ready for 2 more frames within a week or so. Move the partition to make room for 2 more frames and enlarge the entrance a little. But do not give the bees more room than they can comfortably use. As the nuc grows continue to give it more room and more entrance until it is strong enough to need the full super.