

Joe Lewis - June 17, 2021

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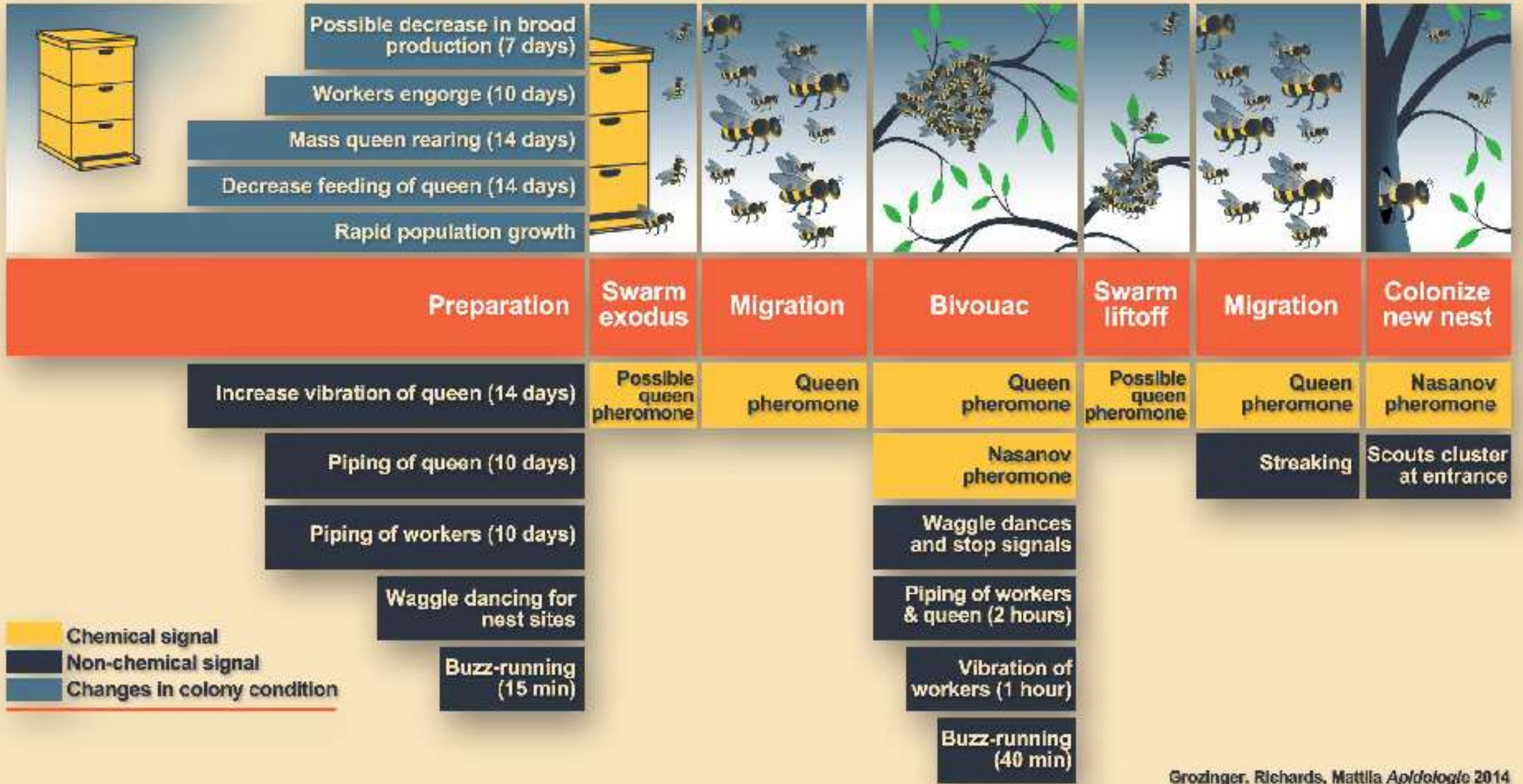
Honeybee Cut Outs and Trap Outs



**Elm Fork
Beekeepers
Association
Gainesville, TX**



Swarming Behaviors



Decision to Trap Out (1)

- Purposes of trap out - need their strength, want to save the bees, need to eliminate bees from structure or tree
- Time of Year - when is best? Spring
- Cut Outs VS. Trap Outs
- Time Required VS. Benefit Gained



Decision to Trap Out (2)

- Advantages of Trap Out - free bees > hive strength
- Disadvantages of Trap Out - potential disease, SHB, Varroa transfer, time away from keeping your other bees
- Dangers of doing a Trap Out - Africanized bees, falls from ladder, mount or stand
- Heat exhaustion, heart attack, etc!



Methods

- Bee vacuum
- Standard: Cone trap to Nuc box
- **Whimpy Hogan Bee Trap method** - (formerly the Kelly “Bee Swarm Harvester” now out of production)
- **The Naomi Price - Multi Step Total Trap Out Method**



Price
entrance
extension

Equipment Needed (1)

- Caulk and caulking gun. Aluminum foil, Great Stuff expanding foam, steel wool, duct tape, etc Nuc box
- Adjustable straps, ropes, boards
- Screws, screwdriver, hammer, nails
- Heavy black plastic bags or sheeting
- Cones or screening material
- Ladder



Equipment Needed (2)

- Catch box, hive body, super, or nuc with frames.
- One or 2 frames of brood and eggs. Or a queen right colony.
- Platform to mount catch box on, adjustable in height.
- Materials to build a platform, or suspend the nuc box. Warehouse Pallets?



Queen Right or Just Brood? Bees or NO?

- Both are OK, depending on your plan.
- Do you have time to tempt the old queen out?
- Make the queen think it is a hive expansion
- Or make it a CUT OUT



Cut Out Considerations

- **Homeowner issues: De-construction, damages**
- **Repairs to Follow? The homeowner takes responsibility**
- **Liability issues?**

Cone Exit Thru the Box or Near Box Entrance?

- Either way works, adjacent to entrance is usually easier.
- Internal “EXIT” better
- Big Cone - Light tight - black out
- Dangers of drones clogging cone exit



Tips & Techniques (courtesy of James Nielson Honeybee cutout specialist - Chico, TX)

- Vacuum out the guard bees first
- Keep caught bees cool with screen covers, bags of ice, etc.
- Don't forget you need a permit to transport bees across county lines (and state lines)
- Charge for removal based on difficulty (minimum \$400)

More Tips & Techniques (trap outs)

- Switch Nuc Box every few days - spread out the bee strength
- Flexibility of screen wire, longer cone VS. a short plastic or screen cone
- To CONE or NOT to CONE - Free movement now, cone later

Final Points and More Info

- Multiple steps over time = higher success
- Check daily for jam ups, new exit points, overfilling
- From the Naomi Price article in American Bee Journal:
<https://www.honeybeesuite.com/the-price-trap-out-no-bee-left-behind/>
- From Whimpy Hogan's website:
<https://sustainablebeesblog.files.wordpress.com/2018/09/hogan-bee-trap-12-pages-with-pictures.pdf>
- For more blog interviews and bee stuff by Joe Lewis (videos), search YouTube for "Joe Lewis Beekeeping"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74-nx8lUg9U>
- For Joe's free Queen Rearing Calendar Wheel (a \$34.95 value!!)
http://susquehannabeekeepers.com/pdfs/Queen_Rearing_Calendar_Wheel.pdf