

How To Use A Swarm Trap

Swarming: Natural Propagation

Going out to your hive and finding that a colony of your bees has swarmed can be very frustrating. Know that you are not alone! Having a colony that swarms on you is normal and does happen. It makes no difference if you are a first year beekeeper or have been doing it for years, it is a natural survival instinct and nature's way of keeping the population from becoming extinct. Bees swarm sometimes due to poor management such as overcrowding and even disease. Even well managed colonies can and will swarm. Luckily most beekeeping supply companies carry what is called a Swarm Trap.



Attracting A Swarm

Swarm Traps are a way of attracting a colony of bees that have swarmed. (Note: Trap with lure must be in place prior to swarming) For best result use what is called a Swarm Lure. A Swarm Lure releases a pheromone. If you have ever purchased a package of bees you know the smell, it is almost like a lemony fragrance. A Lure is designed to release a similar scent, which naturally attracts the honeybee scout when looking for a new home. The Swarm

Lure comes in two small plastic vials sealed inside a paper envelope. You want to make sure you follow the instructions that come with the Swarm Lure. The first thing to know is that you **DO NOT OPEN** the Paper Envelope and **DO NOT REMOVE** the Vial. Opening the vial will cause the scent to evaporate and lose its effect. The lure will slowly release right through the vials and envelope. You use the envelope to attach the lure to the trap by either stapling it inside the lid of the Swarm Trap or by using a thumb tack. If you are not planning to use the Swarm Lure you want to store it in a tightly sealed jar in the refrigerator or freezer until you are ready to place it in the trap.

Step by Step Instructions for Putting up a Swarm Trap

Step 1

Take the Swarm Lure out the refrigerator or freezer.

DO NOT OPEN THE ENVELOPE, attach the closed envelope to the lid on the inside of the trap with a thumb tack or staple. Replace the lid of the trap.



Step 2

Place the swarm trap near an area of high bee activity near where the swarm has landed or had landed in the past or about 200'-250' feet from the mother apiary. A place where a recent swarm has landed is a great spot because it retains the queens pheromone scent left by the previous swarms' queen. The pheromone of the queen is a strong, oil based chemical that can linger even long after the swarm leaves

and often attracts other swarms. Place the trap approximately 9'-12' feet up in the air with a ladder. Be sure to keep in mind how you will get this down when full of bees. A bit of foresight will save you time and trouble.



Step 3

As you wait for a swarm to arrive, make sure you have your hive box and frames ready to go so you have a place to put them.



Step 4

You will want to dump your swarm into the hive body at dusk on the day you find your swarm in the trap. It can be helpful to have a spray bottle on hand filled with a mixture of 2 parts granulated table sugar and 1 part water. You can use the spray bottle to lightly spray down the bees before dumping them into the hive body to prevent them from flying. 🐝

QUICK TIPS

- **Swarm Lures** should be kept in your refrigerator or freezer until you are ready to use them.
- **Swarm Trap** place the trap approximately 9'-12' feet up in the air with a ladder.
- **Make Sure** you have your hive box and frames ready to go so you have a place to put the bees.

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