



Congratulations on your Bee Weaver Bee purchase!

To get the most out of your Bees, please take the time to carefully read through this guide.

If you have any additional questions, visit our resource page at [BeeWeaver.com](http://BeeWeaver.com) for FAQ's, videos and lessons. Specific questions can be answered through our BeeHelp desk.



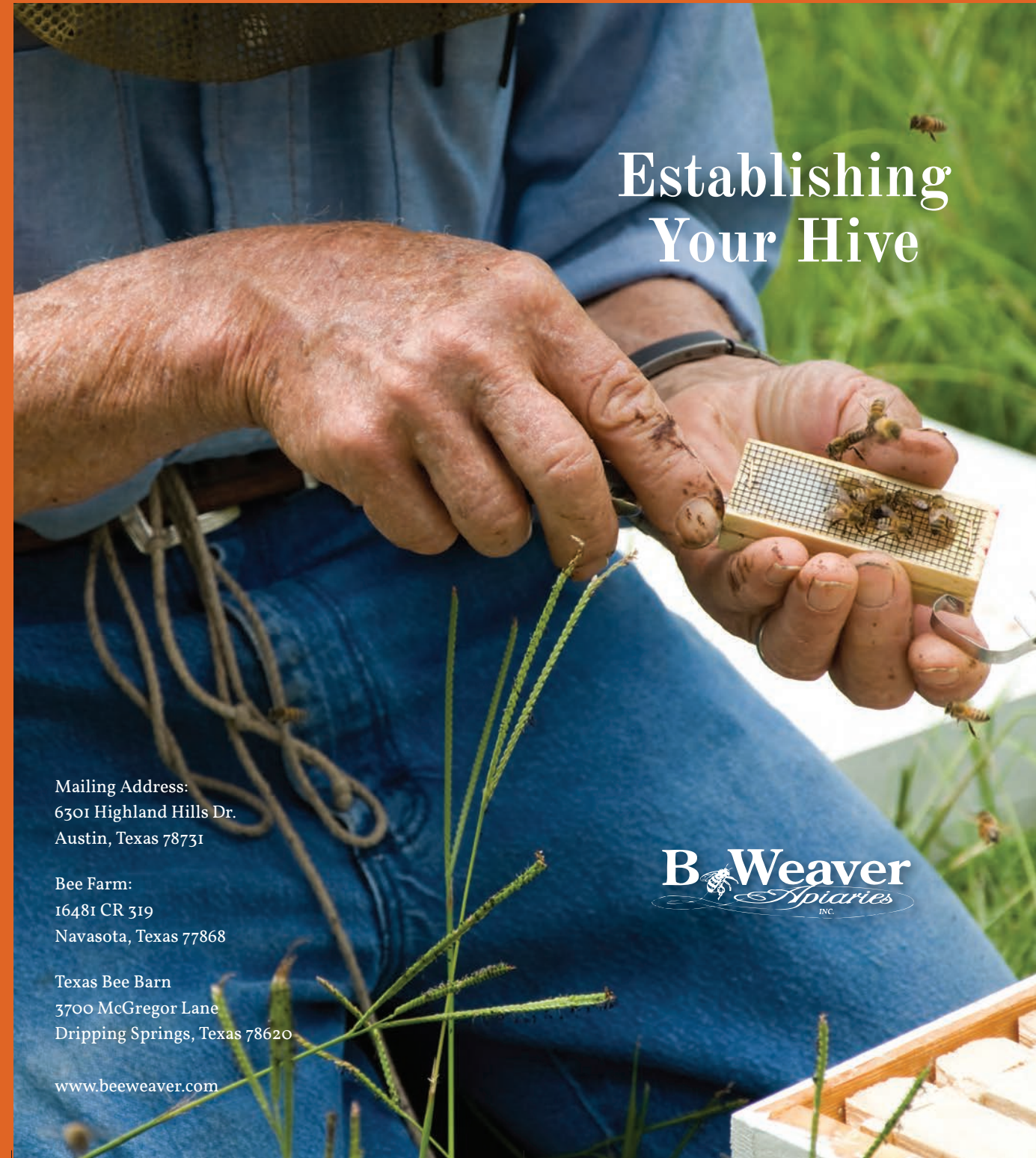
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*The Best Way to Bee!*

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# Establishing Your Hive

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## Nucs



- 1 Prepare your hive before the nucleus arrives.
- 2 Prepare a feeder with honey or sugar syrup (dissolve 6-8 lbs. of sugar in 1 gal water). The entrance of the hive should be reduced to a width of about an inch or two by stuffing grass or newspaper into the entrance slot.
- 3 Remove 4-5 frames or combs from the hive body (you need to make room for four combs from the nuc.)
- 4 Wear a hat and veil, and light your smoker. Take the lid off the nuc, and gently smoke the top of the frames.
- 5 Carefully place the 4 frames of brood, bees and the queen in the hive body. *Be very careful not to smash the queen.*
- 6 The 4 frames of brood/bees should be no more than one comb away from the feeder if you are using a frame feeder in your hive. Close the hive.
- 7 In one week enlarge the entrance (2-4 in), add feed and check for eggs. The eggs look like miniature grains of rice positioned vertically in the bottom of the cells.
- 8 If you do not have any eggs, please contact us immediately. *If a nuc fails to flourish or even dies, typically it is due to the queen not surviving transit or the hiving process.*

## Package Bees



- 1 Prepare your hive before the bees arrive.
- 2 Prepare a feeder with honey or sugar syrup (dissolve 6-8 lbs. sugar in 1 gal water). Reduce the entrance to 1-2 inches with grass or newspaper. If you feel you need to contain the bees 100%, use a screen.
- 3 Gently remove the feed can and queen cage from the package, then replace the can. This procedure is made easier by tipping the package over, or prying the can up with a hive tool.
- 4 Look in the queen cage to make sure the queen is alive. If the queen is dead, contact us immediately, and hive the package with the dead queen.
- 5 Remove the cork from the candy end of the cage and hang it candy end down between two of the center frames in your hive. The bees must have access to the screen on the queen cage.
- 6 Remove four of the outside frames and set the package of bees into the hive. Remember to remove the can so the bees can crawl out. Alternatively, turn the shipping cage bottom up, over the hive and shake the bees into the hive over the queen. Cover the hive and do not disturb it for at least a week.
- 7 After one week enlarge the entrance (2-4in). The queen should be out of her cage & eggs present in one or two combs. If you have started the hive on foundation only, the bees should be drawing wax out on 2-3 frames.
- 8 Starvation of the bees is the biggest hazard to success. Continue to feed the colony, taking care not get robbing started, until you are sure the bees are producing enough honey to maintain themselves. *Too much feed is better than too little in the beginning.*

## PUSH-IN CAGE

### Queen



- A push-in cage allows the queen to start laying eggs immediately and will increase the chances of acceptance. *This method requires handling the queen, which must be done with great care.*
- 1 Make sure the hive has no queen or queen cells present.
  - 2 To make a push in cage, cut a flat 6x6 inch screen wire. Cut slits 3/4" in from the top right and left, as well as the bottom right and left. Fold at the cuts to make a 3-dimensional box.
  - 3 Select a comb with emerging brood. Brush the bees off the comb and place the push-in cage over an area of empty cells, a few emerging brood cells and open nectar.
  - 4 Remove the queen from the candy cage and put her under the wire cage. Do not allow any other adult bees under the cage. Push the cage into the comb, leaving enough room for the queen to move freely underneath. Be sure bees can't get under the cage.
  - 5 The frame with the queen and cage should be placed in the middle of the brood nest (if no brood is present, place in the middle of the cluster).
  - 6 Remove the push-in cage after four days or after the bees are no longer clinging to the cage. If the bees are clinging to the cage, instead of calmly walking on it, then they have not accepted her yet, and more time is needed before the cage is removed.
  - 7 The colony should be disturbed as little as possible for the next 2 weeks, while the queen establishes her brood nest.

## WOOD OR PLASTIC CAGE

### Re-Queening



- 1 Make sure your hive does not have a queen. Remove the cork from the candy end of the queen cage. Use a small nail or like tool to gently open a small hole in the candy. *Be careful not to poke through and stab the queen, or make the hole so big the bees can crawl through.*
- 2 Wedge the queen cage between two of the center frames with the screen on the cage exposed downward toward the bottom of the hive so that the bees can access the queen through the screen. The bees must also have access to the hole in the candy end of the cage.
- 3 Be sure the candy end of the cage is slightly lower than the area of the cage occupied by the queen. Take care to make certain that the queen cage is securely embedded in wax or is secured to the top of the frames. If the cage falls to the bottom of the hive the queen may not survive. The queen must be placed in the brood nest or the part of the hive where bees are clustered.
- 4 Close the hive and wait one week before opening it. When you make your one-week inspection, the queen should be out of her cage, and she should have eggs laid in one or two of the combs. If she is not out of the cage, release her into the hive by removing the screen and allowing her to walk into the hive. *Be careful not to let the wind or her wings carry her away from the hive.*