



**Get your NUC off
to a great start!**

**We want you to see your
colony flourish.**

We strive to supply you quality products at the lowest price. We love getting to know our customers and want to provide the BEST customer service! So, stop by and visit us the next time you're in the area and rest awhile on our front porch in one of the rocking chairs and take it all in!

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Beez Needz
Beekeeping Supplies

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**Getting Your
NUC Started**

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STEPS TO SUCCESS IN GETTING STARTED WITH A NUCLEUS BEEHIVE

At Beez Needz, we want our customers to have the most successful experiences possible with their honey bees. We also stand behind the products that we sell. If you experience a problem with the nucleus hive(s) of bees that you bought from us, please let us know within three weeks after you've installed the bees, to enable a quicker and more successful resolution to the problem. Our beekeeping and customer experience tells us that the best outcomes in adding a nucleus colony to your apiary can be achieved by following the suggestions below:

STEP 1: When transporting the bees to the destined apiary, the nucleus box needs to be securely closed, best if strapped, with the entrance totally blocked (screen is better than solid for this). The frames travel best if the box is placed so that the length of the hive is parallel to the length of the vehicle, i.e., the front and back of the nucleus hive are facing the front and back of the vehicle. Be sure to pack other items around the hive and/or secure it with a strap during the ride, so that a quick stop or turn in route won't topple the box over.

STEP 2: Have your beehive already set up with frames in place, on a stand; leave room in the middle of the hive box for the five frames from the nucleus hive. Also have sugar water (1:1) in a spray bottle, a feeding system to give your bees 1:1 sugar water, your hive tool, and your protective gear in place. It's a good idea to have a smoker handy and lit, even though you may not need much smoke. It may not be practical to install the nucleus frames into their permanent home when you get to the apiary, so set the nucleus hive on the stand where you intend for them to live so that they don't have a major re-adjustment when you're ready to move them into their permanent home. Consider leaving them in the nucleus box for a day or two (with the entrance open about an inch to enhance ventilation and light traffic), to allow them to settle down from the stressful ride home.

STEP 3: Smoke the nucleus hive entrance, wait a minute or so, then gently remove the cover(s) of the nucleus hive and apply a few puffs of smoke. Pull out and inspect every frame carefully as you transfer it into your larger hive. During this step, it's important to put the frames into the new hive in the same order that they were in the nucleus box, and in the center of the new hive box. Make sure that there is honey, pollen, all stages of brood, and a queen (or eggs if you don't see the queen) present, along with plenty of adult bees on every frame. Add the remaining frames of foundation or drawn-out comb on each side of the nucleus frames to fill the box; spray each of these frames with sugar water to give the bees a quicker head start to work on them.

STEP 4: Add a feeder and fill it with 1:1 sugar water. Expect to refill the feeder regularly during the first few weeks.

STEP 5: Close up the hive, if you haven't already done that before placing/filling the feeder. Apply the hive's entrance reducer, at least for the first week or two, to keep out intruders. Place a rock or brick on top of the outer cover to keep wind from blowing the cover off.

STEP 6: Leave the bees alone for at least five days. Hard to do! But opening a hive too often will often make the whole honey bee family leave home at once.

STEP 7: Re-inspect the hive thoroughly about 5-8 days after having set it up. You should see continued egg-laying/brood-rearing, wax-building and (likely) food storage. (The amount and rate of these activities depends greatly on the time of year.) You may need at this time to add a second box, and will likely need to continue feeding for a while, depending on the time of year.