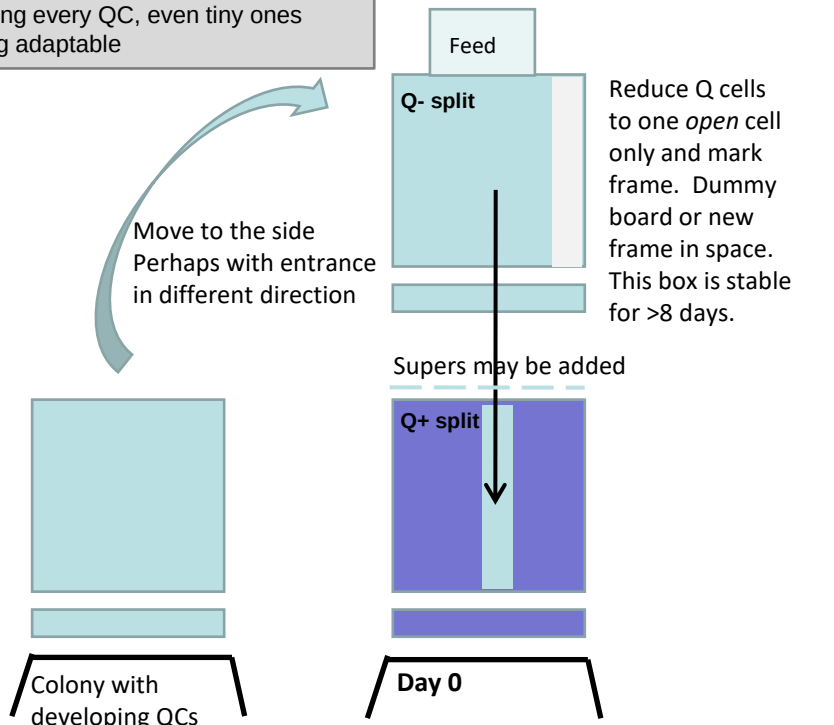
Artificial Swarming

Successful ASing depends on:
- Being able to find the queen easily
- Having spare equipment
- Finding every QC, even tiny ones
- Being adaptable

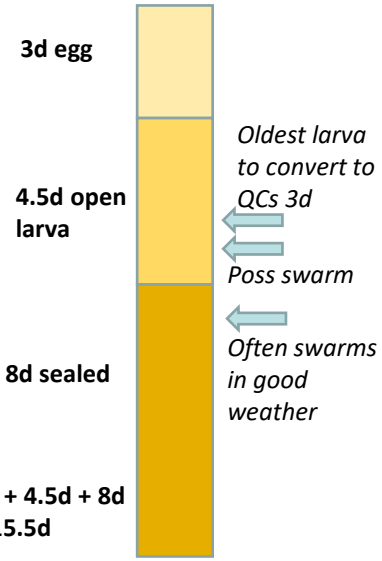
If not feeding then leave sufficient stores as this box is deprived of foragers with brood to feed and keep warm.

Splits can be made in reverse, putting the old queen to the side with additional young bees shaken in, usually using nucs, and can be made vertically over a split board.



** Be careful to spot and remove small emergency queen cells (with tip pointing down) which the bees may have raised.*

Queen timing



After losing a swarm, if virgins are emerging then let some out and destroy all sealed cells. Such colonies will not swarm without a sealed cell.

Ignore all advice to leave two QCs.

Keep a cell well attended by workers.

Act when 3 or more queen cups have eggs. 1-2 can be removed.

Old Q on a frame ideally without any eggs or young brood, moved into new box on old site. Ensure some empty comb present. May get super(s) esp if there is a flow on as this stock has foragers and little brood. Shaking some extra young bees helps the balance in the split.

If no eggs or young brood were left at D0 then leave until D7 as swarming attempt unlikely. Check for QCs, stores, space, but swarming attempt after D7 unlikely for a few weeks.

Potentially ~3 days after AS until swarm emergence from Q+ split if young brood available. Best avoid eggs and young larvae in Q+ split.

Can place QX underneath the brood box for a few days to counter any swarming attempt on young new QCs but this isn't ideal as drones which are determined to get out will die on QX.

Abbreviations:
QC – queen cell
QX – queen excluder

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