

CAGING THE QUEEN

AN EFFECTIVE BEEKEEPING INTERVENTION

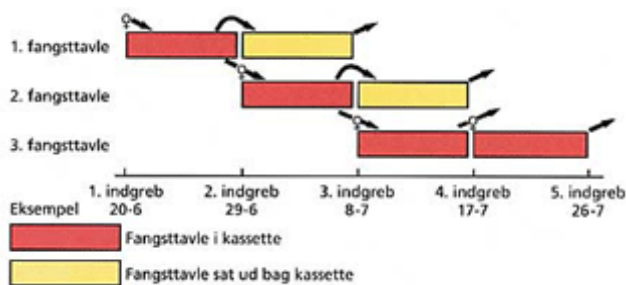
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- * Using this method the queen is caged inside a frame for almost four weeks
- * The varroa mite numbers can be kept to an acceptable level using queen caging combined with the removal of drone brood.
- * Queen caging prevents swarming.

PROCEDURE

- * Queen caging can be carried out on one or more framed. Here caging inside a cassette on a single frame is described.
- * Queen caging takes place before the Spring oil-seed-rape honey flow. The intervention is carried out every eight or nine days
- * In the first intervention the queen is put on a frame inside the cassette
- * At the second intervention remove all the queen cells. The first frame is set behind the cassette, and the queen is then put onto the second frame inside the cassette.
- * Under the third intervention remove the first frame. The second frame is then placed behind the cassette, and the queen is placed on the third frame inside the cassette.
- * At the fourth intervention remove the second frame. The queen is then released from the cassette, while the third frame remains in the cassette.
- * At the fifth intervention remove the cassette and the third frame.



BAIT FRAMES

- * The "bait" frames which have been removed can be destroyed. They can also be treated with formic acid or by heat treatment, if there are not dead brood in the frames
- * Using formic acid treatment the brood must not be more than 16 to 17 days old.
- * Six to seven bait frames are set into an isolated box.
- * At the top and the bottom a thin, porous wood fibre board is placed and each is given 25 ml of 85% formic acid solution. The box is then covered with an air tight cover and bottom.
- * One hour later the treatment is complete. The frames may only be placed in hives from which a honey harvest is not to be taken.
- * Using heat treatment the brood must not be more than 16 - 17 days either. The treatment as described in the section on heat treatment should be followed.