

# 5-FRAME NUC INSTALLATION

## SUPPLIES

Veil and appropriate precautions to prevent bees from crawling up your pant legs and arms

Hive tool · Smoker

Spray bottle filled with sugar water



**OLIVAREZ HONEY BEES**

## In Advance

- Prepare your hive equipment, assemble and paint before the bees arrive.
- Install the same day (or the day after) you get home.
- Place your complete hive (hive stand, bottom board, deep box, and 5 frames) at your location before you leave to pick up your NUC.

## Transporting

1. Keep your NUC as cool as possible, dress warmly and run the air conditioner on the way home. There is some ventilation however, to keep bees healthy, the bees need to go directly from OHB to your hive location.
2. We will rubber band the lid shut so the box is secure and doesn't come open. There may be a few "hitch hiker" bees on your NUC. We will do our best to brush them off before they are loaded in your car.
3. Do not stop for an extended length of time with the NUC in a hot vehicle or in the bed of a truck in direct sunlight. Rain or cold wind will not harm them and will help keep them cool.
4. When you arrive home place the nucleus colony on top of the lid of the hive location. Face the entrance of the NUC(s) in the same direction as the hive entrance. The bees will orient to this spot as their new home. You cannot change this spot more than a foot or two without losing bees.
5. **VERY IMPORTANT: Open the entrance so the bees can fly, even if it is after dark. On either end of the NUC there are sliding doors that lock open.**

## Installing

1. After a couple of hours, or the next day, transfer the frames in the NUC hive to the deep box. It is best to do this in the early evening or towards dawn, as many bees will not be in the hive and off foraging for nectar and pollen.
2. Move the entire NUC box off the top of the hive lid off to the side. Open the lid on the NUC box slowly. If there are many bees bouncing off your veil, you may want to give them a puff of smoke.

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## 5-FRAME NUC INSTALLATION (2)

### IMPORTANT

Move all frames and place them in the center of the deep box, **in the same order they came out of the nuc.**

This is important to keep the brood cluster together.



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### When Transferring

1. In the NUC, start with the outermost frame closest to you. Separate it from the adjacent frame and then carefully remove it from the NUC. Place the frame in the deep hive body.

Continue to move all frames and place them in the deep in the center of the deep box, in the same order they came out of the NUC. (This is important to keep the brood cluster together.) When placing frames in the deep box, lower the frame into the empty area and then slide it up to the previously installed frame to avoid rolling bees.

2. Add your remaining frames on either side of the already installed NUC frames to total 10 or 8 (depending on what size equipment you are using).

### Feeding

If using new equipment it is important to feed, as it takes a lot of energy to draw out (build) new frames. There are many more ways to feed than can be explained here, but here are a few tips:

- If using a feed can, make sure there is only 1 hole in the lid. If there is more cover with duck tape until 1 hole remains.
- If you are using a top feeder, DO NOT use an inner cover. Follow all instructions for use included with your feeder.
- Use pollen patties when there is no pollen available from flowering trees and plants.
- When using liquid feed, syrup should be 1 pound of sugar per 1 pound (pint) of water (4 pound bag of sugar mixed in 2 quarts of water).

After feeding, close the hive. The size of the entrance should be reduced to an opening of 1/2 by 1 inch using a wooden entrance reducer. As soon as there is overcrowding at this small entrance, remove the entrance reducer.

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