



Brushy Mountain Bee Farm

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Cold Weather Suggestions for Package Bees

- 1 Ideally, a package of bees should not remain in the package for more than 4-5 days. Keep in mind that the bees will have been in the package for about a day before you pick them up.
- 2 If your weather is forecasted to be:
 - (a) Cold (highs of 45° or less) for more than 4-5 days, it will be best to install the bees.
 - (b) Cold, but forecasted for just a day or two, keep the bees in a cool dark place, such as a garage. Be sure to lightly mist the bees with sugar water twice a day. If you see increased bee mortality in the bottom of the package, install the package.
- 3 When installing bees in cold weather, be careful not to excessively wet them down with sugar water. It is best to shake the bees from the package so that they can cluster around the queen to keep her warm. The passive method of installation is not suggested as the bees may cluster in the package rather than round the queen.
- 4 In cold weather the bees will cluster and may not be able to access a feeder. You will need to get food to the cluster:
 - (a) If you have some drawn comb with honey from another hive, certainly that can be used by hanging a few of the frames in the middle of the hive with the installed package
 - (b) If you have drawn comb which doesn't have honey, you can lay the frame flat and sprinkle sugar into the cells until they are full. Mist the sugar just a little so it gets sticky and doesn't fall out when you stand the frame up. Now do the other side. Frames loaded with sugar can be hung in the hive and used for food by the bees.
 - (c) If you don't have any drawn comb, you can apply a fondant to the top bars, or better, use the Fondant Feeder. The bees can cluster around the fondant and use it as a food so