**Steps to install a 6 Frame Swarm Trap**

1. When should I hang my swarm trap?
   1. As soon as you see dandelions coming out you can think about hanging your traps. In Southwest Ohio this is often the end of March but more likely the start of April. Swarms will be cast from overwintered colonies the whole month of April so if you are a little late you should still have a good chance to catch one of many swarms each Spring.
2. Identify an Installation Location
   1. Bees often use a tree line, fence line, high power lines, or the edge of a large body of water to mark their course as they forage. These act as a kind of highway for them to follow and landmarks to help them understand where they’ve have come from and where they are going to.
   2. If you can see an older tree with a few limbs missing and seeming to be on its last leg and if the tree is right on the line and not set back into the woods or brush this might be a perfect location.
   3. If you don’t have woods or trees to attach your trap you could use things like a ladder, fence post or rain barrel to sit your trap on.
   4. You will want a location that gets morning and midday sun. Some dappled shade in the late afternoon is also good. Basically, the trap should face East to Southeast.
   5. If the location has foraging opportunities this can also increase your chances.
3. Prep Swarm Trap
   1. Your swarm trap comes with 6 wired frames, a divider or what is also called a “follower” board, and a small bag of propolis.
   2. Add lures to the trap to make it seem inviting.
      1. Your trap is sized at 40L which has been determined to be the cavity size a swarm is looking for in a tree. Dr Seeley in his research and book “Honeybee Democracy” has clearly demonstrated this size is preferred by swarms.
      2. A trap that appears to have been inhabited in the past by honeybees is also attractive to scout bees. The presence of old comb and propolis will provide the appearance and smells that say, “come in, the house is ready for you.”
         1. If you have drawn comb, then remove a certain number of the new frames and replace with the drawn comb. One or two drawn comb frames will be a good additional lure for the scout bees. You can also fill the trap with drawn comb if you want. If you are new and don’t have the drawn comb but have access to foundation either use a full sheet in a couple new frames or cut a foundation sheet down to 2” starter strips and attach them to the top of each of the new frames. This last method will be good to help the swarm to build comb off the starter strip on each frame verses building burr comb and making it difficult to transfer the swarm from the trap to a hive later.
         2. Take the provided propolis and rub it on the inside of the trap. You can also simply sprinkle some of it on the inside bottom of the trap.
      3. Your last lure is to add Lemongrass essential oil. Take a paper towel or paper napkin, place 3 drops of the oil on the paper and place this inside a small plastic sandwich bag. Place the bag in the inside bottom of the trap below the bottom of the frames. Use something like a small stick to keep the mouth of the bag open. Also take a drop of the oil and rub it on the outside of the entrance. The Lemongrass oil is like the Nasonov pheromone scout bees leave behind on possible new homes they like. The oil then tells new scout bees they have a location that other scouts like, and they should move in before someone else does...it’s a sellers’ market you might say.
   3. Put the divider board in and lean it against the last frame.
   4. Place the lid on and secure it with something like a bungee cord, ratchet strap, or even screw the lid to the side of the trap so when you have caught a swarm and are taking it down you don’t loss them with the top coming off by accident or dangerously inside your car if you need to transport them to an apiary.
4. Install Swarm Trap
   1. Based on the location you’ve determined for your trap either hang by ratchet strapping it the side of a tree or on top of some sturdy platform.
   2. Older instructions often suggest placing the traps 10-15ft off the ground which is a normal cavity height determine by Dr Seeley in his research. Recent talks by Dr Seeley have recognized the dangers for beekeepers in bringing a full trap that could weight 40lbs or more down a 15ft ladder. Trying to hold the trap in one arm and walking down the ladder backwards is certainly dangerous and no longer suggested. Dr Seeley and others have seen equal success in simply attaching to a tree or sitting on a platform that is 4-5ft off the ground. Even the top of a sturdy fence post could be used. The idea is that it’s attached in a sturdy way so the trap won’t fall or be blown over with Spring winds and rains AND that you can remove it safely and without spilling your new swarm on the ground. They would certainly let you know they are not happy.
   3. Assure your entrance is open and some oil has been applied. You now have a great home with good street appeal for your new bees. The welcome sign is now out.
5. Inspecting the Swarm Trap
   1. Once a week look at your trap to see what attention it is getting. Warm Saturdays around 11am – 1pm are a great time to do this. At first you will see a few scout bees checking out the trap. They will go inside for a minute or two to determine the size and condition and then will fly around the outside to see how it looks. The scouts are walking the inside and flying to measure the size of the trap.
   2. Once you see more active bees quickly coming and going from the entrance you likely have a swarm especially if you see pollen coming in. Once you feel a swarm has taken up home in your trap give it another week or two before taking it down. This gives them time to build comb and the queen to lay eggs/brood. The presence of brood will keep the colony from absconding right after you bring the trap home.
6. Remove the Swarm Trap
   1. Traps should be removed either at dusk or at night. This assures you have all your foragers in the trap. Don’t want anybody coming home saying where is our house.
   2. Close the entrance disk and set it to the venting holes. Bring the trap down or off your platform and set it in its new location. Place a bundle of sticks or grass over the entrance to cause them to reorient and then open the entrance the next morning.

You Have a New Colony!