

Double Deep Hive Bodies

&

Screen Bottoms

In the last 24 months I've attended 18 conferences and with numerous conversations involving scientist and Master Beekeepers here is the consensus on Double Deeps & Screen Bottoms.

- a. Double Deep Hive Bodies were originally introduced to produce more bees which is incorrect. In a single deep there is over 60,000 cells for the queen to lay eggs in. The queen lays 1500 to 2000 eggs per day which is 32000 eggs in 22 days so by the 22nd day new bees are emerging. This leaves over 28 thousand available cells for the queen to lay eggs in. she can not over populate a single deep hive body. You can do 3-4 splits every spring when you have a mite free hive body.
- b. The queen and cluster move up into the 2nd hive body for winter this leaves a large volume of cold air in the bottom deep. The bees metabolic rate goes up to produce heat and die off prematurely during the winter and one can end up with a very small cluster starting in the spring which puts the new bees 22-24 days late during the spring pollen/nectar flow.
- c. The bees store honey in the hive body brood frames primarily in the corners unfortunately the cluster does not move laterally (left & right) to feed. They form a tear drop for which they move upward and back down to feed. The second hive body the center frames were for brood with no honey storage. Starvation occurs. If the second hive body (queen divider required) is used for honey storage or if honey supers are immediately above the cluster ample food is available. The rule is don't rob your bees in the fall, 2 full honey supers of food storage in the South & 3 supers in the North for overwintering.
- d. Screen Bottom boards arrived shortly after the presence of the varroa mite as a means of detection follow up studies have shown that by the time there is dead mites on the IPM board the hive is in serious trouble.
- e. The trash from the bees will accumulated on the IPM board if it is not checked regularly then the small hive beetles lay eggs in the trash they hatch, and small hive beetles then migrate right thru the screen into the hive.
- f. Bottom Screens provide very poor ventilation when using telescoping hive tops there is only aprox. a one-inch slot for the air to flow thru. The solution is screen vented tops air flow is important. Testing has shown a simple false super with three 7/8-inch diameter hole in the front and rear with fine mesh poly wire stapled over the inside of the hole there is now no bearding and your bees are out working instead of trying to reduce the temperature inside the hive. This false super resides directly under the telescoping inner lid and lid.

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