



Swarm Harvester

The Hogan Bee Catcher was developed to catch bees in trees, buildings, old cars, tank, etc. where you are not able to get to the bees directly. It is a simple way to remove unwanted bees, or to increase your number of hives.

The trap consists of a two piece transition, with one piece fitted to the tree (or other area), and one piece fitted to a deep super or nuc. You will notice a small funnel in the transition which is attached to the deep super or nuc. Attach the female transition to the tree (or other area) with nails or ratchet straps. Next, wrap the tree with black plastic to seal off all entrances except the one going through the transition. Allow the bees to come and go through the transition for a couple of days to get used to using it as their entrance.



Next, slide the deep super, with the attached transition, into the tree transition to determine where your stand needs to be positioned. You can use bee boxes, tables, portable deer stands, or cables to hold the deep super in place. The transition is a loose fit so there will be a little extra room.

Once you have the trap positioned, use duct tape to tape the two transitions together. Place two or three drawn combs in the trap. Place the inner cover and top on the trap. Allow the bees to come and go through the deep super. You will notice the guard bees will move to the front of the deep super because this is now the entrance. Housekeepers and cleaners will come out into the deep super and begin cleaning the deep super and the drawn combs. Allow the bees to come and go for a couple of days as they get used to the trap. As the bees come and go through the trap they assume the deep super is an extension of their hive.

Once the bees are going and coming through the hive, you are ready to set the trap. The trap will work best if you can go into one of your hives and secure a frame of brood with some unsealed brood on the frame. Brush all the bees off the frame and place the frame in the deep super trap. You will notice nurse bees will come out to take care of the deep super with brood.



Next, place a piece of thin plywood over the end of the transition inside the deep super. Now the bees can only leave their parent hive through the funnel in the transition. As the field bees exit the hive, they will return to find that they cannot go back through the funnel to their hive. Since they will be loaded with pollen or nectar, they will place their cargo in the drawn combs in the trap. As they leave for their next trip, they leave from the deep super trap and when they return they place their cargo in the drawn combs because this is where they placed their last load. As more and more workers come through the transition funnel the number of bees in the deep super trap increases. As soon as you have two or three frames covered with bees you are ready to move the trap.

If your source is a heavy hive, you may be able to simply remove the two or three frames from the hive trap, relocate at least three miles and place a new queen with your new colony. If you remove the frames and leave the trap in place, you will not get all of the field bees. They will still be out in the field working. If you do this, don't forget to remove the inside cover of the transition and allow the bees to come and go for a few days before setting the trap again.

If your source is not a heavy hive, it is best to wait until dark. Close the entrance with a cleat, slide the transitions apart, cover the end of the transition and remove the entire deep super trap to a new location at least three miles away. This way you get all of the bees that have come through the trap. Place a new queen with your bees and you have a new colony.

Leave the bees in the trap until the new queen begins to lay. Then transfer the frames into a new hive and place the trap back on your source. Depending on the strength of the source, you may be able to take a second hive as soon as just a few days to a couple of weeks. If you intend to eradicate the source, just keep trapping. You will weaken the hive and it will die. If you continue trapping constantly, you may very well catch the queen and the hive will die.