



LBKA Nuc Sales Policy

LBKA nuc suppliers must have had their queen rearing apiary inspected by the bee inspector within the last two years at the time of nuc supply. The nuc supplier gives their permission for LBKA to verify this information if appropriate.

The nuc suppliers agree to guarantee the nuc during its 4 week period at the Temple Newsam apiary and will provide mentorship to the nuc customer during this period.

The total nuc price is £150, with £15 deposit collected by LBKA via WebCollect and the remaining £135 paid by the buyer to the nuc supplier upon collection.

The Nuc

Combs and Frames: The five frames should be standard national size and securely nailed/pinned and be in sound order -they do not need to be new but should be disease free and not excessively dark. Black comb is unacceptable. Combs should be fully built out, i.e. not foundation. The outside combs can be food only, there should be no sacrificial drone comb. The five frames should be clearly marked by the seller to allow identification at a later date.

Queen: There should be a current year UK-reared laying queen. She should be marked with the 'standard' colour for the year.

Brood: Brood and eggs in all stages should occupy at least 50% the total comb area, with no brood cycle break. Not less than 30% of the total comb area should be sealed brood. No more than 15% of the total comb area should be drone brood. There should be no active queen cells at any stage of development present.

Food: A nucleus should have enough honey and pollen stores to survive a week without any further food coming in. It must be accepted that the food situation of a nucleus can vary considerably depending on weather, age of bees and brood nest size.

Adult Bees: There should be a good balance of young and flying bees, and the frames should be well covered. The bees should be good tempered when handled by a competent beekeeper in suitable conditions. There may be a varying number of drones depending on conditions.

Health: The brood should be healthy and not show any signs of disease in any stage, with the exception that a small number of cells showing chalk brood may exist, as this can depend on prevailing weather conditions.

The hive: *The nuc customer is responsible for the hive that the nuc will be transferred into and any additional frames required. The nuc box will normally remain with the nuc supplier and thus immediate transfer into a suitable hive at the Temple Newsam apiary will be required. Obviously, depending on the Covid restrictions at the time, (if any) the transfer may be at another location such as the buyer's own apiary. It will be between the buyer and seller as to how the transfer is finalised.*



The Ordering Process

The ordering process will be administered via WebCollect, with the £15 LBKA fee paid online.

The nuc co-ordinator will provide the interface between supplier/customer, ensuring that when nucs are ready, the customer is in position for a smooth handover at the LBKA apiary (or on a rare occasion, another alternative in agreement with all three parties – customer, supplier and co-ordinator). The nuc balance (£135) is paid at handover time by a method agreed between supplier and customer (usually cash). Where issues occur with the nuc, the supplier should be the first point of contact, where an issue is not resolved, the nuc co-ordinator will arbitrate.

As we have multiple nuc suppliers, the nuc co-ordinator will endeavour to ensure fair distribution of customers between suppliers.

Feedback

We will send out a questionnaire towards the end of August to gauge people's experience of the nuc process and whether any improvements need to be made for the next year.