

SUBJ: Package Bees, Nucs, and Queens

This is a long email, but if you are considering purchase of package bees or queens through the NRVBA, or local nucs, it's all important, so please read to the end before asking questions.

Please do not respond to this email to place an order, or to ask a question that you don't need to go to the entire membership. See ordering info below.

Having noted an increasing trend of disappointing performance of package bees, the NRVBA has begun an effort to reduce dependency on packages, to emphasize development and sale of local nucs, and to increase the degree of mite resistance in local queen stock.

This year 130 packages have been purchased for resale to members (compared to last year's 165) and **can only be purchased by also paying for a mite resistant replacement queen**, to be delivered later in the summer. Price for a package plus replacement queen is \$140. Details below.

Bob Whiton has gone to considerable effort to prepare a list of local nuc producers. This list will be made available, but know that nuc price, content, dates of availability, and terms of transfer will be between buyer and seller, with no direct NRVBA involvement.

Since more experienced beekeepers should be better prepared than novices to produce splits to replace winter deadouts, expand apiaries, etc., **package and nuc sales through 28 February will be limited to members of the 2021 Beginning Beekeeper's Course.** Beginning 1 March, sale of remaining packages (plus replacement queens) and local nucs will be open to the general membership. As the NRVBA must pay for packages in full by 1 April, package orders need to be completed by that time.

Assuming weather doesn't impact production, package delivery will be to the parking lot of our regular meeting place (Health and Human Services Building, 210 Pepper St, Christiansburg) on Sunday, 18 April. More details on this as the date approaches.

Those wishing to order mite resistant queens not associated with package purchases may do so, as well. The Association will subsidize the sale of up to 100 varroa-sensitive hygiene (VSH) queens, **MAXIMUM OF 5 PER MEMBER.** Member cost is \$25, and can be ordered up to 15 April or until 100 queens have been purchased, whichever comes first. If 100 queens haven't been spoken for by 15 April, the per-person limit will be lifted.

When ordering either a replacement queen for a package or a "non-package" queen, you will need to specify Carniolan or Italian, and up to three choices for delivery from a list of four dates (19 June, 26 June, 10 July or 17 July). All queens will come from Tim Service in Meadows of Dan, will carry the "varroa sensitive hygiene (VSH)" trait, and will be marked.

Actual queen delivery dates will be decided based on first-come, first served and the maximum number of queens that can be delivered on any one date. Confirmation of queen delivery date for most will come from Jerry Borger not later than the first week of April. Any stragglers will be addressed as soon as possible after that time.

To order packages with replacement queen or “non-package” queen, do the following:

To order packages (which will include a replacement queen), send your order to packageorder.nrvbeekeepersassoc@gmail.com.

To order queens (separate queens, not paired with packages), send your order to queenorder.nrvbeekeepersassoc@gmail.com.

In either case, your order must include the information mentioned above: Type of queen requested (Carniolan or Italian), and up to three choices for delivery from a list of four dates (19 June, 26 June, 10 July or 17 July). If you have no preference as to queen type or delivery date, you can say so. You must also provide a phone number at which Jerry or Bill can reach you.

To pay for your order, send \$140 per package or \$25 per separate queen to the NRVBA. You can do either of the following:

Send money via PayPal to nrvbeekeepersassoc@gmail.com. In the note section for your payment specify the number of packages and/or queens and include your phone number, in case Jim needs to contact you.

Or,

You may also mail a check made out to NRVBA and include your name, phone, email and preferences to:

NRVBA
P.O. Box 6
Pilot, VA 24138

NOTE! Orders are first come, first served. The email you send will determine your place “in line”, should orders exceed quantities available. If you send a check via postal mail without sending the email, your place on the order list will be determined by the date your check is received.

For questions on packages contact Bill Hendon, bigstonehouse@outlook.com

For questions on the nuc list, contact Bob Whiton, mail@rswhiton.com

For questions on queens, contact Jerry Borger, 540-557-7789 or twoltcols@verizon.net

For questions on payment, contact Jim Hill, 540-589-3937 or jameshill@swva.net