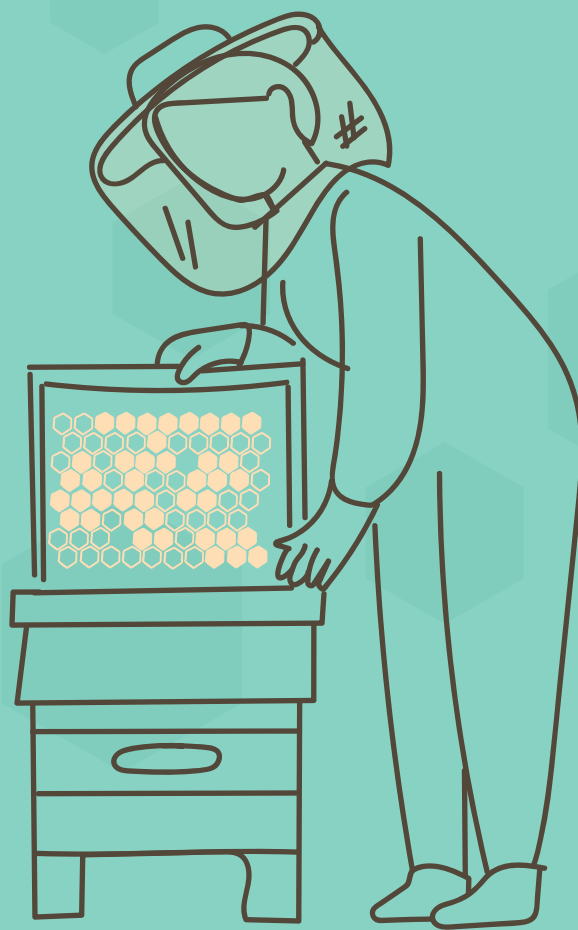


Evaluation of mating success and start of oviposition of the new queen

When we raise or rear a new queen, for our use or for sale, it is necessary to evaluate if she is mated and performs an adequate oviposition. Visual inspection of the behaviour of the queen and the number and distribution of the eggs laid is the best way to evaluate the queen's performance.



step
1

After 10 days from starting the rearing, mating boxes should be populated with bees, into which queen cells or young queens are introduced. The mating boxes are kept in a cool room for three days, and then placed in the apiary.



step
2

During sunny weather, young queens **about 7 days old** begin mating flights in the afternoon, at temperatures **up to 25 °C**. Copulation with drones takes place in drone congregation areas. After mating flights, they may return with a mating sign.



step
3

A week after placing the mating boxes in the apiary, it should be checked whether the queens have returned from their mating flights and whether they have started laying eggs.



step
4

After another week, if it is certain that there is a capped, regular worker brood in the mating box, the queen can be introduced into the colony in which replacement has been planned.

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