

# A Nucleus Colony, or "Nuc"

## Definition

A **nucleus** colony, or **nuc**, is essentially a small hive, in a smaller box, consisting of bees in all stages of development, as well as food, a laying queen, and enough workers to cover from three to five combs. When placed into a full-sized hive body and given supplemental feeding, the nuc usually expands rapidly into a strong colony. When started in early spring, these hives may produce surplus honey in their first year under favorable weather and nectar flow conditions.

## Advantages of Purchasing a Nuc

The workers and drones are already familiar with the queen i.e. no queen introduction process is necessary. The colony has bees at all stages of life, from freshly laid eggs, nurse bees, and foragers. The nuc comes complete with honey and pollen, which is important to the colony's establishment. The colony is productive and can start foraging almost immediately. While nucleus colonies are initially more expensive than packages, their potential more than makes up for the increased purchase price.

