

2025 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #25a

It is hot outside, and I got up this morning to inspect my bees. Heat warnings are up across much of the eastern U.S. It seems if some kind of heat dome has settled over a wide portion of the country and anyone outside in above 100 degree temperatures need to take the warnings seriously.

I don't have very many colonies -- four strong colonies and some nucs which will have back-up queens for me when and if I need them.

The topic for this week is based on a post in a local bee web for a queen. I strongly believe in beekeepers raising a few queens for replacement. Among all the problems beekeepers face is age old question of how do you buy a good queen. Queens are sold as untested (an old term). It means you get what you get. No guarantee. I currently have raised and built up 5 small nucs. I know at some point this summer I am going to need a new queen. Why buy when you can raise one of your own so easily. This will be a future topic -- raise a queen of your own.

During this hot weather, it might be a good idea to take a class on queen rearing or purchase a book about queen rearing. The cost of a book by the way is cheaper than buying one queen.

Dana