

## 2026 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #10a

This article has two attachments on queen rearing. I have slowed down over the years, but one thing always is exciting -- raising a few queens to start my own increases. Queens just don't seem to be as good as they once were but that could be the fact that bees face more challenges in today's world. Farm practices have changed to monoculture, small farms have declined greatly, chemicals to combat crop yield loss is always present, urban growth along with the mite issue all contribute to high colony losses. Home grown splits with you own home grown queens can build up to over winter if the queen is not needed. On the other hand, they can be combined with weaker colonies to over winter.

It's getting hot here in Raleigh with no rain in sight for the next few weeks. I have noticed some robbing by my bees. During honey flows bees will generally fly right over a frame with capped honey left in the bee yard. When that flow ends, bees will be on that frame of capped honey lightning quick. One can quickly identify robbing when bees are attacking a colony. It is not the gentle flow of traffic into and out of a hive entrance. It is like human rush hour traffic. Cars cutting in an out, cars passing on the left or right. A real traffic jam at the hive entrance.

This is not to be confused with new foraging bees taking orientation flights.

Reports I have heard here in the Raleigh area is fewer swarms this year from last year. We are still hoping for a honey crop, but the lack of rain here will have an effect.

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